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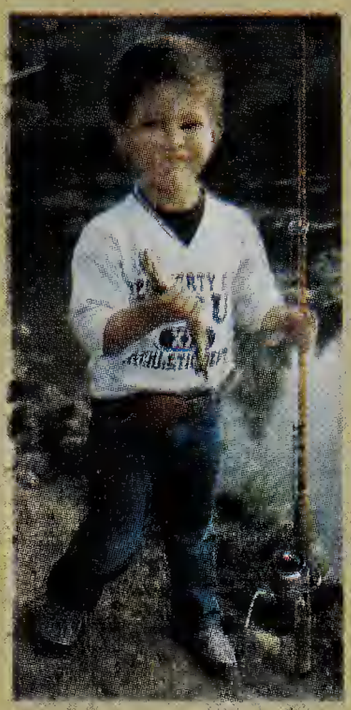
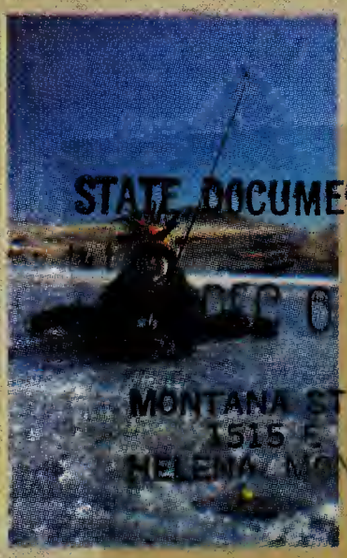
F2mfr
2000-2001

2000-2001

MONTANA FISHING REGULATIONS

A CENTURY OF CONSERVATION 1901 2001





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DEC 03 2001
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HELENA, MONTANA 59620

How to Use These Regulations

Follow these 3 easy steps —

1. Read statewide regulations — page 4
2. Determine the fishing district you'll be fishing, read the district's standard fishing season and regulations.
   - Western Fishing District — page 12
   - Central Fishing District — page 33
   - Eastern Fishing District — page 60
3. Check if the specific body of water you'll be fishing is listed in the district's special regulations. If listed there, the special regulations apply. If not listed there, the standard regulations apply.

New regulations in effect for 2000-2001 are identified with double underlines

MAKE THE CALL — 1-800-TIP-MONT — 1-800-847-6668

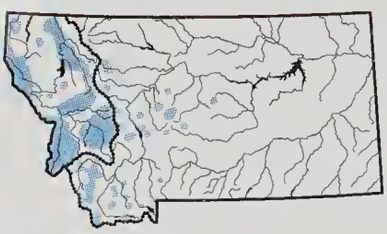
Help Protect Native Species
Know Montana's Native Fish

In Montana, there is a growing concern for several of our native fish species, primarily the BULL trout, the CUTTHROAT trout, and the ARCTIC GRAYLING. Populations of these fish are in decline across Montana, and it is important for anglers to properly identify BULL and CUTTHROAT trout and ARCTIC GRAYLING to ensure they are released unharmed.

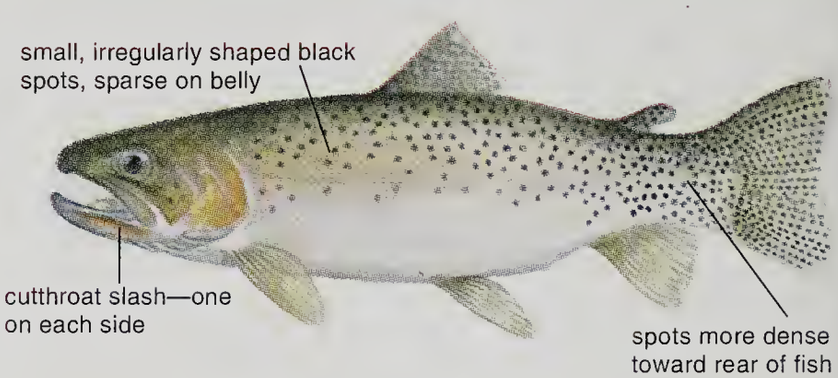
When handling fish, be sure to wet your hands, and keep the fish in the water if possible. If in doubt about the identify of your fish, don't take a chance - release it!

Native Sport Fish

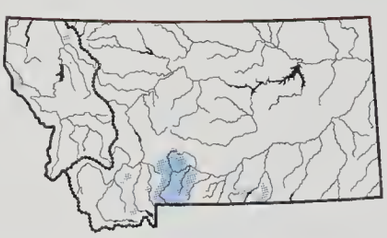
Westslope Cutthroat Trout—Species of Special Concern



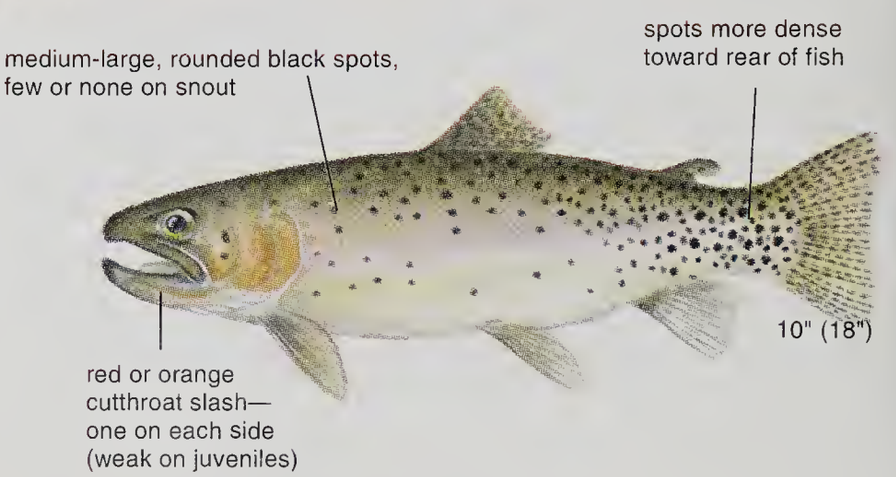
Average Size: 6" - 12"


small, irregularly shaped black spots, sparse on belly
cutthroat slash—one on each side
spots more dense toward rear of fish

Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout—Species of Special Concern

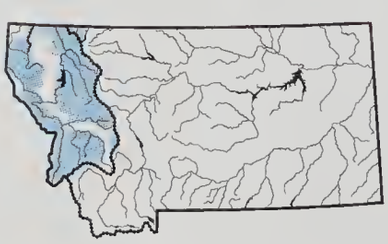


Average Size: 6" - 12"

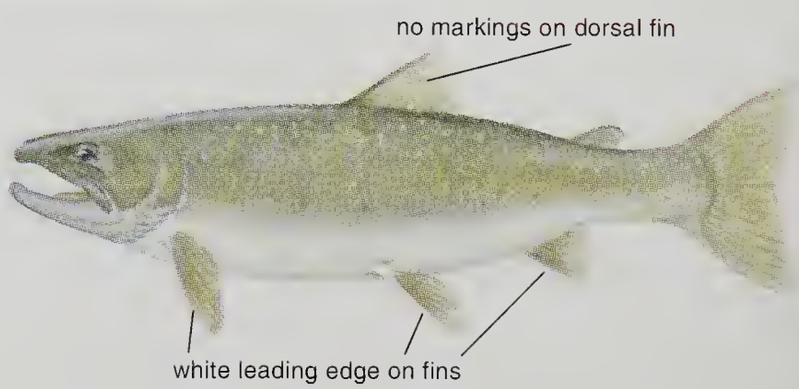

medium-large, rounded black spots, few or none on snout
spots more dense toward rear of fish
10" (18")
red or orange cutthroat slash—one on each side (weak on juveniles)

Bull Trout—Species of Special Concern

A Threatened Species listed under the Endangered Species Act



Average Size: 16" - 22"
MT Record: 25lb 10oz, 37"
Location unknown



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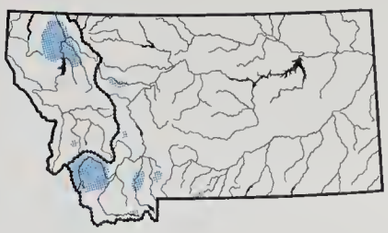
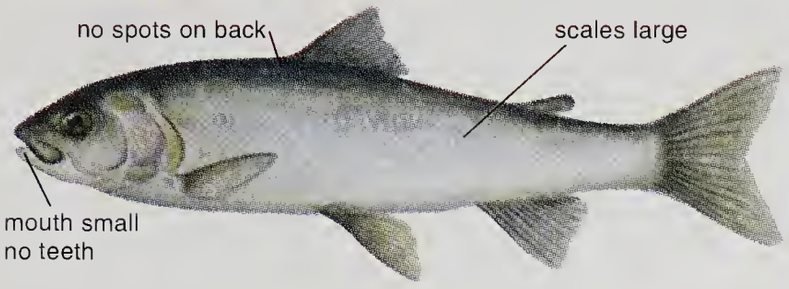
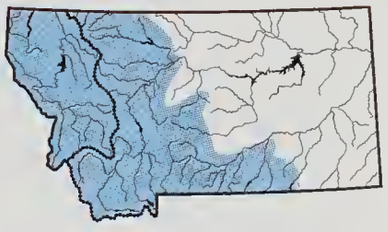
Arctic Grayling—Species of Special Concern



Average Size: 6" - 12"
MT Record: 3lb 4oz, 20.9"
Handkerchief Lake, 1994

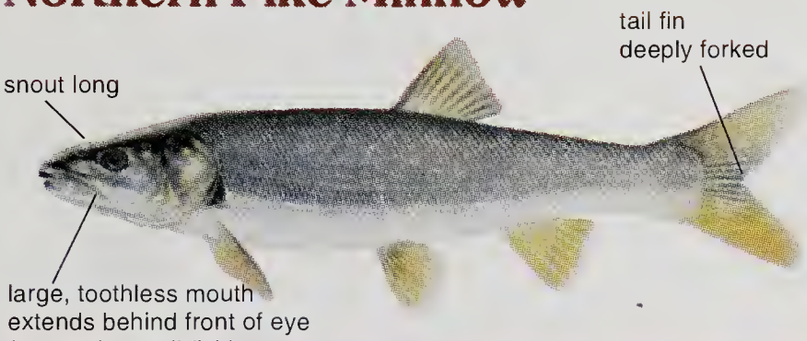
Mountain Whitefish

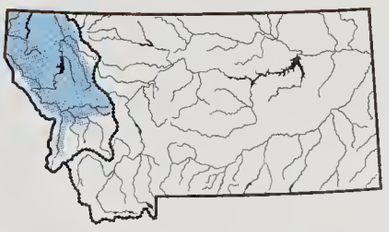




Average Size: 6" - 12"
MT Record: 5lb 2oz, 21.14"
Kootenai River, 1987

Northern Pike Minnow

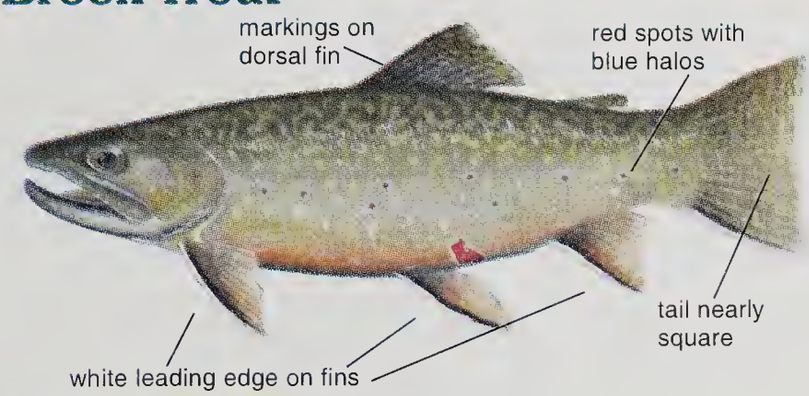


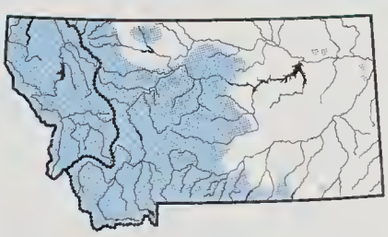


Average Size: 7" - 14"
MT Record: 7lb 14oz, 27.1"
Noxon Rapids Reservoir,
1991

Non-Native Sport Fish

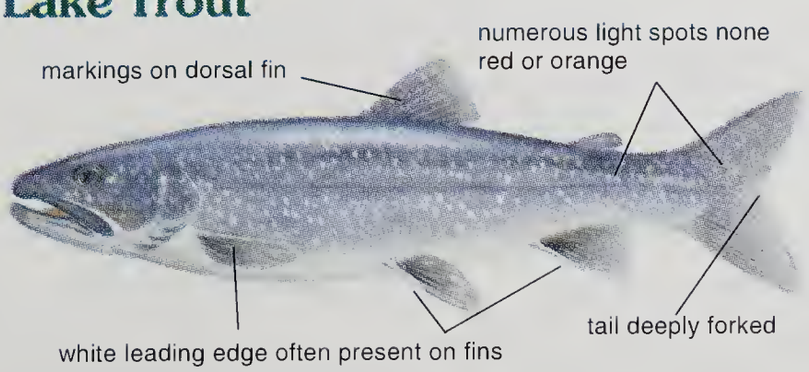
Brook Trout

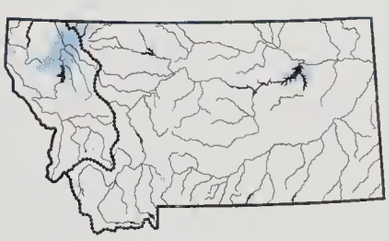




Average Size: 6" - 12"
MT Record: 9lb 1oz
Lower Two Medicine Lake,
1940

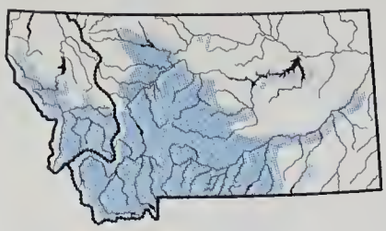
Lake Trout


numerous light spots none
red or orange
markings on dorsal fin
tail deeply forked
white leading edge often present on fins

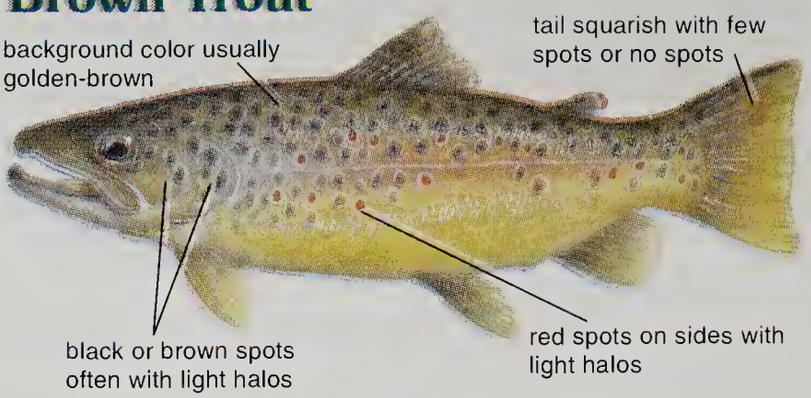


Average Size: 14" - 20"
MT Record: 42lb, 44"
Flathead Lake, 1979

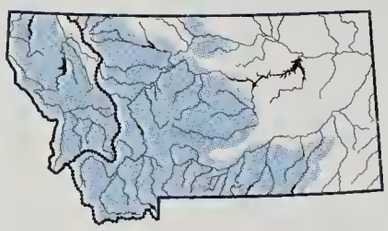
Brown Trout



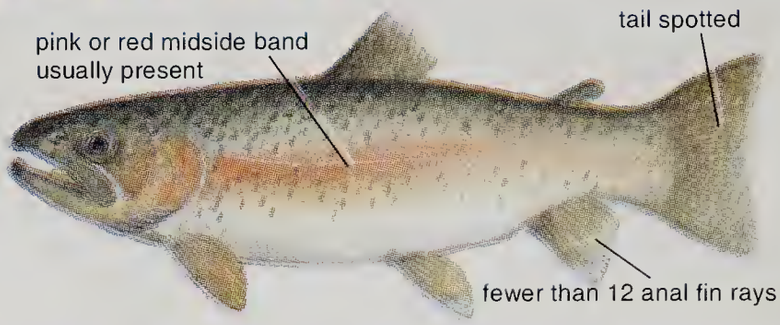
Average Size: 12" - 16"
MT Record: 29lb
Wade Lake, 1966


background color usually golden-brown
tail squarish with few spots or no spots
black or brown spots often with light halos
red spots on sides with light halos

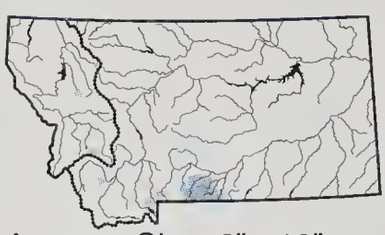
Rainbow Trout



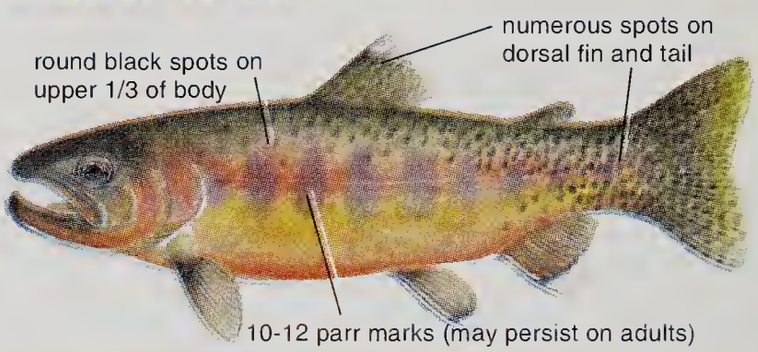
Average Size: 8" - 16"
MT Record: 33lb 1oz, 38.6"
Kootenai River, 1997



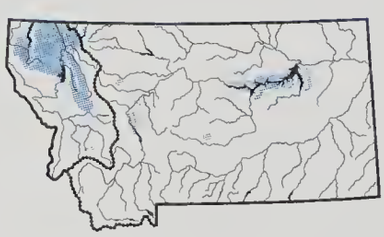
Golden Trout



Average Size: 6" - 12"
MT Record: 4lb 14oz, 22.5"
Lightning Lake, 1993



Kokanee



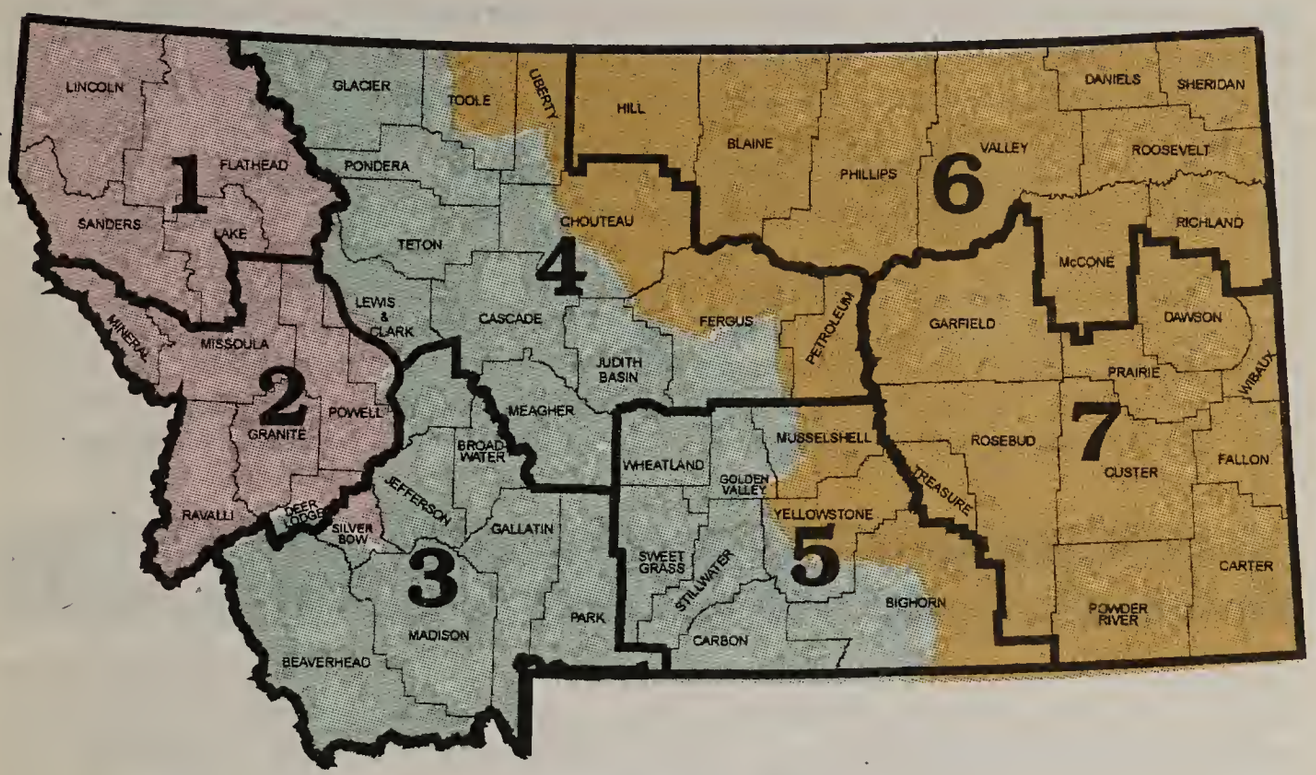
Average Size: 8" - 16"
MT Record: 6lb 1oz, 24"
Hauser Reservoir, 1999

Kokanee—Spawning Male

Fish illustrations displayed in these regulations were painted by Glenn West for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. Fish are not shown to scale. Species of Special Concern—See definitions.

FWP ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS & FISHING DISTRICTS MAP

FWP Administrative Regions with Fishing Districts in Color



Western District = Burgundy, Central District = Green, Eastern District = Gold

STATE HEADQUARTERS
MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 East 6th Avenue
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
(406) 444-2535

TELEPHONE DEVICE
FOR THE DEAF
(406) 444-1200

REGION 1
490 North Meridian Rd
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 752-5501

REGION 2
3201 Spurgin Rd
Missoula, MT 59804
(406) 542-5500

REGION 3
1400 South 19th
Bozeman, MT 59718
(406) 994-4042

HELENA Area Res Office (HARO)
930 Custer Ave W
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 444-4720

BUTTE Area Res Office (BARO)
1820 Meadowlark Ln
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 494-1953

REGION 4
4600 Giant Springs Rd
Great Falls, MT 59405
(406) 454-5840

LEWISTOWN Area Res Office (LARO)
2358 Airport Rd
Lewistown, MT 59457
(406) 538-4658

REGION 5
2300 Lake Elmo Dr
Billings, MT 59105
(406) 247-2940

REGION 6
Route 1 - 4210
Glasgow, MT 59230
(406) 228-3700

HAVRE Area Res Office (HvARO)
2165 Hwy 2 East
Havre, MT 59501
(406) 265-6177

REGION 7
PO Box 1630
Miles City, MT 59301
(406) 232-0900

REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY FWP COMMISSION

By order of the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission (FWPC), the seasons, limits, and regulations listed here shall govern the 2000 fishing season. These regulations were adopted by the FWPC on November 12, 1999, and are valid March 1, 2000 through February 28, 2001.

These regulations are also proposed to remain in effect for the 2001 license year (March 1, 2001-February 28, 2002). The FWPC will formally adopt the fishing regulations in the winter of 2000 with possible changes. Any changes in these regulations will appear in an addendum sheet available at all Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) offices and from FWP license agents. Anglers must obtain an addendum sheet to make sure they are complying fully with fishing laws.

State and federal laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, or disability. Anyone believing he or she has been discriminated against (as described above) in any program, activity, or facility may write to FWP, Personnel Office, 1420 East Sixth Avenue, Helena, MT 59620 or to The Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

MONTANA FWP FOUNDATION IS CREATED

The purpose or mission of the Foundation, created in 1999, is to provide private support for the efforts of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and to take a leadership role in preserving and enhancing Montana's natural, cultural and recreational resources for future generations.

Many are aware of our story. Elk, trout, bighorn sheep and more were harvested to near extinction for food or furs a hundred years ago. Then hunters and anglers stepped forward, with the support of landowners, and paid license fees, and later excise taxes on equipment, to fund the greatest wildlife restoration program on earth.

New questions and challenges now confront us. Can we do for other species what we have done for animals that provide hunting and fishing opportunities? Will we have the access necessary to enjoy our wild creatures? Can we reclaim damaged habitats, maintain our open spaces and preserve important wild places? Are the historic and cultural remnants of this past century going to be preserved through the next?

Hunters, anglers and park users have and will continue to pay their fair share. The Foundation was created to help support new work. It will build an endowment of corporate donations and gifts to fund programs that conserve wild places, restore imperiled species, maintain access, protect unique cultural and historic parks and educate kids about the wonders of our world.

It is time for this generation to think about the legacy we will leave for the next century. When wildlife calls ... who will answer?

For more information or if you would like to make a contribution, call (406) 444-6759, or write Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Foundation at PO Box 200701, Helena MT 59620-0701.

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LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

License Requirements

To fish in Montana, most anglers need two licenses: a Conservation License and a Fishing License.

A Conservation License is needed before you can buy any fishing or hunting license that Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) issues. Beginning March 2000, conservation license applicants will need to provide their social security number in addition to the information usually requested. A valid driver's license and/or valid photo ID is required to purchase a license.

A fishing license allows a person to fish for and possess any fish authorized by the state's fishing regulations. It is nontransferable and nonrefundable. The license enables one to fish from March 1 through the end of February of the following year.

Resident Licenses

To qualify for a resident license, a person must meet the criteria set out in MCA 87-2-102 (see Legal Resident definition on page 100). If you are unsure of your resident status, check with your local FWP office or game warden.

What License(s) Do I Need To Fish In Montana?

Age	Resident	Nonresident
1-11	No license required. Must observe all limits and regulations.	No license required **IF** accompanied by an adult that holds a valid Montana fishing license. The combined fish limit for the two anglers cannot exceed the legal limit for one licensed angler. To catch his or her own legal limit, the youth must purchase a fishing license. See nonresident 15-61 and 62+ years of age.
12-14	Conservation License only - **$4.00** - See note below chart	
15-61	Conservation License ($4.00) + Fishing License ($13.00) Resident Sportsman's and Youth Combination Sports Licenses also include a season fishing license.	Conservation License ($5.00) + Montana Fishing License ($10.00 for 2 consecutive days or $45.00 - season). Nonresident Deer A Combo or Nonresident Big Game Combo licenses also include a season fishing license.
62+	Conservation License only - $4.00	

note: The 1999 Legislation authorized two license options for Montana youth. 12-17 years of age - Youth Combination Sports License which allows fishing and hunting of upland game birds, deer and elk. 15-17 years of age - may, upon request, purchase a one-half price fishing license ($6.50) and one-half price upland game bird license ($3). The new fees will be in effect through February 2002.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Special Licenses

Warm Water Game Fish Stamp - ***NEW REQUIREMENT***

The 1999 Montana Legislature passed a bill to require the purchase of a Warm Water Game Fish Stamp to help fund construction of a warm water fish hatchery planned near Fort Peck. The stamp is required for anglers to possess any warm water fish caught in designated waters. An angler who is required to be licensed to fish in Montana and who keeps any warm water game fish (including, but not limited to, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, burbot, walleye, sauger, black crappie, white crappie, channel catfish, yellow perch, northern pike, and tiger muskellunge) on waters listed in each district must purchase a warm water game fish stamp. *The stamp shall be placed on the fishing license at the time of purchase. See pages 34 and 61 for the waters that require this stamp.

Resident and Nonresident $5.00

*Resident youth under 15 years of age, residents 62 years of age and older, and resident disabled anglers are exempt.

Paddlefish

A resident or nonresident of any age must purchase a tag to fish for paddlefish. Paddlefish anglers must also possess a valid Conservation License and Fishing License. Limit of two tags per person.

Resident - $2.50 each Nonresident - $7.50 each

Montana Resident With Disability

Resident Person with a Disability Conservation License* - $4.00

*Must be permanently and substantially disabled. Applications and licenses available only at FWP offices. NOT available at FWP license agents. Not available to nonresidents. Allows the holder to fish.

Veterans Administration Patients

Permits are available for patients of VA Hospitals and residents of State institutions, except the State penitentiary. These permits are available on site at the VA hospital or State institution.

Care Facility

The manager or director of an eligible facility licensed in Montana may apply for permission to take supervised residents fishing during activities approved by the facility. Licensed facilities include: long-term care, personal care, home for persons with developmental disabilities and home for persons with severe disabilities.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Private Fish Pond License Requirements

A person who owns or lawfully controls a private fish pond may obtain a license from FWP to stock the pond with fish. Only lawfully purchased fish may be planted. Contact your local FWP office for more information and an application. No fishing license is required to fish on licensed, privately stocked fish ponds. Applicable fishing license requirements apply to private ponds that are stocked by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

State Park Entrance Fees--Resident and Nonresident

Anyone using a Montana State Park, including anglers fishing in its waters, must pay an entrance fee. For the frequent user a state park passport vehicle sticker, good for the entire fishing season, is available for $20 for residents and $24 for nonresidents from any FWP office and from most license agents. The occasional user pays a daily entrance charge of $4.00 per vehicle at the park's entrance.

Recreational Use of State School Trust Lands

A State Lands Recreational Use License, which is available from FWP license agents, is required to conduct most recreational activities (including hunting and fishing) on state school trust lands. Pamphlets giving information regarding the rules, regulations, and restrictions governing these recreational activities on state school trust lands are available from FWP offices, licenses agents, and the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Trust Lands Division, PO Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620.

IMPORTANT STATEWIDE REGULATION CHANGES

- Know the Law and Avoid Violations

Following are some of the most important changes that were made from the 1998-1999 fishing regulations. Please read the 2000-2001 regulations thoroughly to avoid unintentional violations.

- A $5 Warm Water Game Fish Stamp is required to possess warm water fish caught on designated waters. Check the District regulations, pages 2, 34 and 61 .
- Bull trout are defined as any trout with white leading margins on the lower fins and no marking on the dorsal fin, page 4. If in doubt, carefully release it (see page 95).
- Non-salmonid fish that are dressed and filleted must have a one inch by one inch square shoulder patch of skin attached for identification, page 11.
- Resident and nonresident applicants for a conservation license, including youth, must provide their social security number in addition to the other information usually required. A conservation license is required before buying any fishing or hunting license issued by FWP, see page 1.

STATEWIDE REGULATIONS

Seasons

All dates given for seasons are inclusive dates. Where dates specify an open season, fishing is closed for the rest of the year. An open season is for all species unless otherwise noted.

- Rivers and streams are open the third Saturday in May through November 30 unless otherwise specified in district or special regulations. All waters in the Eastern Fishing District are open all year.

- Lakes are open all year, unless otherwise specified in Special Regulations.

Game Fish

All species of the family *Salmonidae* (chars, trout, salmon, grayling, cisco and whitefish); all species of the genus *Stizostedion* (sauger and walleye); all species of the genus *Esox* (northern pike and tiger muskellunge); all species of the genus *Micropterus* (bass); all species of the genus *Polyodon* (paddlefish); all species of the family *Acipenseridae* (sturgeon); the genus *Lota* (burbot or ling); and the species *Ictalurus punctatus* (channel catfish).

Bull trout are defined as any trout with white leading margins on the lower fins and no markings on the dorsal fin.

Fishing Hours

Fishing is allowed at all hours during open fishing seasons unless otherwise specified.

Fishing Methods

Hook and Line Limits

- Only a single line with up to 2 hooks, with or without a pole, may be used for fishing unless otherwise specified in district regulations. The pole or line must be attended and in the angler's immediate control.

- Two lines with up to 2 hooks per line may be used on lakes and reservoirs in the Central and Eastern Fishing districts.

- Where multiple lines are permitted, the number of allowable lines includes the combined total of attended lines, unattended lines (setlines), spears, or other units of fishing gear.

- A hook is a single, double, or treble point attached to a single shank. A lure with multiple hooks is still deemed a single hook.

- These provisions also apply to commercial whitefish fishing as provided under district regulations.

Unattended Lines (Setlines)

- Unattended lines (setlines) may be used on waters specified by district regulations. Unless otherwise specified, an unattended line (setline) must be checked by the owner at least once every 24 hours.

- The owner's name and address must be attached to each unattended line (setline).

- Unattended lines (setlines) shall not be attached to jugs or other floating devices.

Snagging

Snagging is a form of angling in which hooks are cast, trolled, or lowered into the water and moved to snag them in the bodies of fish. Snagging fish is unlawful, except for paddlefish, chinook salmon, kokanee salmon and nongame fish as provided under district regulations. Where snagging is allowed, any number of hooks may be used. If you accidentally snag a game fish not legal for snagging, you must release it immediately.

Spearing

Spears or gigs may be used for taking fish as specified under individual fishing district regulations. See Western, Central, and Eastern District regulations

Nets and Traps

- Landing nets may be used for landing hooked fish.

- In the Central and Eastern Fishing districts, in waters where use of live fish is allowed for bait, nongame species (except carp, goldfish, sunfish, bullheads, yellow perch and rainbow smelt) may be taken in the following manner:

    - with seines no larger than 12 feet by 4 feet.

    - with minnow traps, the dimensions shall not exceed 24 x 12 x12 inches.

    - minnows may be taken with cast nets (maximum of 6-foot radius) and dip nets (no larger than 3 feet by 3 feet).

- Hoop nets may be used only in the Eastern Fishing District. See page 60.

Ice Fishing

- **Number of Rods/Lines**
    - Two rods and/or lines may be used to fish through ice on all lakes, reservoirs, or ponds open to fishing in the Western and Central districts. Six rods and/or lines may be used to fish through ice on lakes, reservoirs, and ponds open to fishing in the Eastern District. See a particular fishing district's special regulations for exceptions to this restriction.

STATEWIDE REGULATIONS

- **Size of Hole**
  - The maximum size hole that may be used for ice fishing is 144 square inches (12 inches by 12 inches), in waters not open to spearing.

  - There is no size limit for a hole used for fishing with a spear.

- **Shelters**
  - Use: It is illegal to use any ice-fishing shelter not conforming to these rules.

  - Shelter definition: Any hut or enclosure constructed of any material, except ice or snow, for the purpose of ice fishing.

  - Shelter identification: Identification must be painted on (or permanently affixed to) the shelter in legible, 2-inch letters plainly visible at a distance of 100 feet. For fabric shelters or tents, identification may be placed on a sign attached to the outside of the shelter.

    - All unattended shelters at all public waters must be marked with the owner's name, address, and/or phone number.

    - All unattended or attended shelters on the following bodies of waters must be marked.

      Bearpaw Lake
      Beaver Creek Reservoir
      Brown's Lake
      Clark Canyon Reservoir
      Deadman's Basin
      Georgetown Lake
      Hauser Lake
      Lake Francis
      Lake Helena

  - Inspection: Each closed shelter shall have a door that an officer may readily open from the outside for inspection when it is occupied.

  - Waste and rubbish disposal: Owners and occupants of shelters are required to keep their shelters (and the area immediately around them) free from rubbish and trash. Anglers must remove waste materials before they leave for the day.

  - Shelter removal: Daily removal is required on the following waters:

    Browns Lake (near Ovando)
    Deadmans Basin
    Echo Lake (near Anaconda)
    Fitzpatrick Lake
    Georgetown Lake
    Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir

  - Shelters may not be placed on the ice prior to sunrise and must be removed prior to sunset each day on the following waters:

    Hauser Reservoir
    Lake Helena

- Removal after the season: The owner of an ice-fishing shelter shall remove it from the ice before it becomes irretrievable at the end of the season; within seven days after the close of ice-fishing season; or within five days from receipt of notification from FWP to remove the shelter.

Artificial Lures

- Artificial lures include any lure (including flies) that imitates natural bait. Artificial lures do not include: fish eggs, any natural or artificial food, nor any chemically treated or processed natural bait.

Transporting Live Fish

It is unlawful to possess or transport live fish away from the body of water in which the fish were taken **except** for: 1) transportation of fish for permitted commercial purposes; 2) for use as live bait subject to any further restrictions imposed by the FWP Commission; and 3) within the boundaries of the Eastern Fishing District.

Legal and Illegal Bait

Minnows and Other Bait

- **Dead Fish**
  No portion of sculpins or salmonids (trout, salmon, whitefish, cisco) except eggs may be used as bait. All nongame fish, or parts thereof, may be used dead as bait if their heads and entrails are removed, or if they have been preserved or frozen, except in waters limited to artificial lures only.

- **Live Fish**
  - Live fish may not be imported into or exported from the State of Montana except by a permit issued by FWP. Permits may be obtained by contacting 406-452-6181 or by mailing in a request to 4801 Giant Springs Road, Great Falls, MT 59405.

  - The taking and/or use of sculpins (genus *Cottus*) or salmonids (trout, salmon, whitefish, cisco) as fishing bait is prohibited on all waters in the state, because they may transmit whirling disease.

  - Carp, goldfish, all species in the sunfish family and bullhead catfish family, yellow perch, and rainbow smelt may not be used for live bait at any location in the state.

  - Live fish may not be used for bait, except as provided under Bait (Live) as listed in the Central and Eastern district regulations.

  - Possession of live bait fish is prohibited in waters closed to using live fish for bait. Only nongame species may be taken for bait and only in waters where live fish may be used as bait.

STATEWIDE REGULATIONS

Commercial Bait Fish Seining and Sale of Bait Fish

Nongame bait fish (except carp, goldfish and rainbow smelt) may be harvested commercially in accordance with the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM), Section 12.7.201.-12.7.206.

Any person taking nongame fish for sale or commercial distribution must have a commercial license for seining bait fish. Contact regional FWP offices for a permit and list of waters open to commercial seining.

Live bait fish may not be imported into or exported from Montana for commercial or other purposes unless authorized by FWP.

Commercial bait regulations are not valid on Indian reservation waters. For information, contact local tribal officials.

Collecting Aquatic Invertebrates Commercially

Persons wishing to collect aquatic invertebrates (such as leeches, crayfish, and aquatic insects) for sale or commercial distribution, should contact their regional FWP office for information. Also see Crayfish and Mussels page 9.

It is Unlawful and a Misdemeanor

- To violate any regulations listed in this booklet.
- To introduce any fish or viable fish eggs into any waters without permission.
- To refuse to show one's fishing license upon demand.
- To refuse to show one's fish upon demand.
- To loan or transfer your fishing license or tags to any person.
- To sell game fish except as prescribed by FWP Commission regulations.
- To leave or dump any dead animal, fish, garbage or litter in or on any state or private property where public recreation is permitted.
- To stun or kill fish by using any carbide, lime, giant powder, dynamite, or other explosive compounds, or any corrosive or narcotic poison. To possess these substances within 100 feet of any stream where fish are found is unlawful.
- To hire or retain an unlicensed outfitter or guide.
- To waste any part of game fish suitable for food (see Waste of Fish or Game definition, page 101).

Irrigation Canals and Ditches

Man-made irrigation canals and ditches are open year round unless stated otherwise in district regulations. The same daily and possession limits for rivers and streams as specified in district regulations apply to irrigation canals and ditches.

STATEWIDE REGULATIONS

Beaver Ponds

Beaver ponds on streams are governed by the same regulations that govern the streams.

Closed Waters

Waters operated as fish hatcheries and rearing ponds by FWP and the US Fish and Wildlife Service shall be closed to fishing at all times. Waters in which FWP operates fish traps and other structures are closed to fishing as posted. Certain water-supply lakes, streams, and hazardous areas are also closed as posted.

Children's Fishing Waters

Waters posted as Children's Fishing Waters are open to fishing during the entire year to persons 12 years of age and younger. Children's Fishing Waters are Elks Club Pond near Lewistown, the Fairground Pond in Helena, Gheny Pond near Twin Bridges, Indian Road Pond near Townsend and Vigilante Pond near Virginia City,.

Indian Reservations

- Certain waters on Indian Reservations may have special rules and permits. Specific information should be obtained from reservation headquarters.

- The State of Montana and Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes have entered into a cooperative agreement on the Flathead Reservation. Please check for fishing regulations specific to the Flathead Reservation by calling the FWP regional office in Kalispell at (406) 752-5501 or the Tribes at (406) 675-2700.

National Parks

Certain waters within National Parks have special rules. Specific information may be obtained from the park headquarters. For Glacier National Park, call (406) 888-7800 and for Yellowstone National Park, call (307) 344-7381.

Federal Wildlife Refuges

Certain waters on Federal Wildlife Refuges may have special rules. Specific information may be obtained from the headquarters of the federal refuge involved.

Crayfish

- A valid fishing license is required.

- Crayfish for personal consumption or for use as bait may be taken in traps no larger than 24 x 12 x 12 inches.

- The collection of crayfish for sale or commercial distribution is limited for use as bait and requires a permit. Contact FWP for information.

STATEWIDE REGULATIONS

Commercial Whitefish Fishing

- A permit is required to sell whitefish. Contact a FWP regional office for a permit and a list of waters open to the commercial harvest of whitefish.

Mussels

In accordance with the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM), Section 12.2.501, it is unlawful to take or possess freshwater mussels or their shells for sale or commercial distribution.

Check Stations

Anglers and hunters are required to stop as directed at all designated check stations on the way to and from fishing and hunting areas, even if they have no fish or game to be checked.

Off-Highway Vehicles

An off-highway vehicle must have a current Off-Highway decal displayed in a conspicuous place to be used for off-road recreation on public lands in Montana (including frozen lakes and reservoirs). Decals are available from county treasurers. Owners of unregistered and unlicensed OHVs from other states must purchase a temporary use permit through FWP regional offices in person or by mail through the Helena FWP office. Nonresidents who operate licensed machines for more than 30 days in Montana must also obtain the temporary use permit.

For More "Need to Know Information"...

Review the rest of this pamphlet to learn about:

- Identifying different kinds of fish, inside of front and back covers.
- Definitions, page 99.
- Montana Trespass and stream access laws, pages 93.
- Boating restrictions, page 77.
- Releasing fish, page 95.

STATEWIDE STANDARD LIMITS

Daily and Possession Limits

Daily limit means the numbers of fish you may legally take during a calendar day. It is unlawful to exceed the standard daily limit unless the regulations for the district where you are fishing specifies a different limit. "Legally taken" means fish caught and not immediately released alive. Where catch and release is allowed, fish released alive are considered not taken. A fish when landed and not immediately released becomes part of the bag limit of the person originally hooking the fish, even if the fish is donated to another person. If you receive fish from another angler, those fish also become part of your daily limit.

Possession limit means the number of fish that you may possess at any time in any form: fresh, stored in freezers or lockers, salted, smoked, dried, canned, or otherwise preserved.

- You may possess the daily limit allowed only for the body of water on which you are fishing. Refer to the district Standard Daily and Possession Limits and the Special Regulations.

- Where size limits apply or while a person is on the water and fishing, all fish in possession must be whole with head, skin, and fins attached. Gills and entrails may be removed.

- Fish may be dressed and filleted for immediate consumption.

- Fish may be dressed and filleted for transport to a permanent residence, unless size limits apply, under the following conditions:

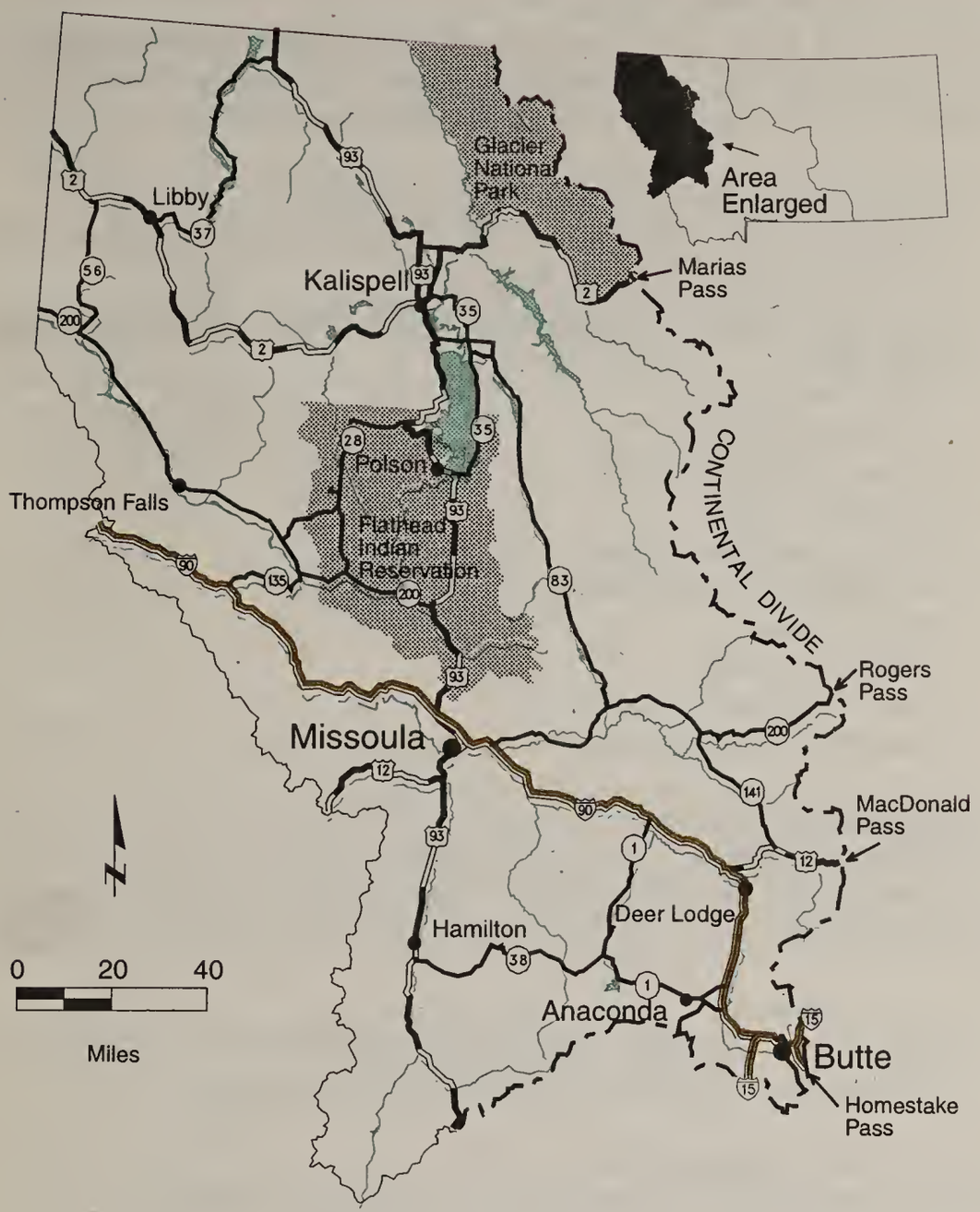
    - Salmonids (trout, salmon, cisco and whitefish): the entire skin must be attached to the fillet for identification.

    - Non-salmonids: a minimum of one inch by one inch square shoulder patch of skin must remain attached to each fillet for identification.

- Transporting dressed fish to your permanent residence is illegal unless those fish can be counted and identified. Two fillets will be counted as one fish. If the catch is frozen prior to transport, each fish or fillet must be packaged so it can be counted.

- It is illegal to can fish before taking them to your permanent residence (see Permanent Residence definition on page 100). Mobile recreational vehicles, travel trailers, or tents do not qualify as permanent residences.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT



Areas excluded from fishing districts.
Additional regulations may apply.
Other federal or tribal permits may be required.

The Western Fishing District includes all waters in Montana west of the Continental Divide.

For additional information about fishing in this district, please call the following regional headquarters:

Kalispell 752-5501
Missoula 542-5500
TTY (Telephone Device for the Deaf) 444-1200

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT

IMPORTANT WESTERN DISTRICT REGULATION CHANGES

- Know the Law and Avoid Violations

- Following are some of the waters with important changes that were made from the 1998-1999 fishing regulations. Please read the 2000-2001 regulations thoroughly to avoid unintentional violations.

Basin Creek and tributaries (Yaak Drainage)
Callahan, North Callahan, South Callahan creeks and tributaries
East Fork Yaak River and tributaries
Fish Trap Creek and its tributaries (Thompson River Drainage)
Lake Blaine
Lake Koocanusa
Lost Lake (Eureka)
Lower Thompson Lake
McGregor Lake
Middle Thompson Lake
Rock Creek (near Clinton)
Rogers Lake
Thompson River
Upper Thompson Lake
West Fork Thompson River and its tributaries

Standard Fishing Seasons

Lakes and Reservoirs

Open entire year. See Western Fishing District Special Regulations for exceptions.

Rivers and Streams

Open third Saturday in May through November 30. See Western Fishing District Special Regulations for exceptions.

Standard Fishing Regulations

A valid fishing license is required for all types of fishing.

Bow and Arrow

All waters are closed to bow and arrow taking of fish, except as noted under special regulations. Crossbows are illegal.

Snagging

All waters are closed to snagging of game and nongame fish, except as noted under special regulations.

Spearing

All waters are closed to spearing of game and nongame fish, except as noted under special regulations.

Ice Fishing

All lakes and reservoirs in the Western Fishing District open to fishing are open to ice fishing with 2 attended lines with 2 hooks per line.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Standard Daily and Possession Limits - includes all tables below.

- Each angler may take all of the limits listed in each chart, unless noted in the Special Regulations.
- Anglers who move from one fishing water to another may possess only the limit of fish allowed for the water on which they are currently fishing.
- Irrigation Canals and Ditches - the same daily and possession limits apply as for rivers and streams.

Rivers & Streams

Species	Daily and in possession	Exceptions
Combined Trout Limit (Includes the following in any combination): **Brown trout** **Cutthroat trout** **Golden trout** **Rainbow trout** **Grayling**	5 daily and in possession	Only one fish over 14 inches.

Bull Trout	All waters of the Western District, except Swan Lake are closed to the taking and/or intentional fishing for bull trout. The limit on Swan Lake is 1 bull trout.

Lakes

Species	Daily and in possession	Exceptions
Combined Trout Limit (Includes the following in any combination): **Brown trout** **Cutthroat trout** **Golden trout** **Rainbow trout** **Grayling**	5 daily and 10 in possession	

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Rivers, Lakes & Streams

Species	Daily and in	Exceptions
Bass	5	
Brook trout	20	
Burbot (ling)	5	
Lake trout	10	
Northern pike	15	
Salmon	20 daily and 40 in possession	
Tiger muskellunge	1	30 inch minimum size
Whitefish	100	
White sturgeon	0	It is unlawful to take or possess white sturgeon.

Wilderness Limits:
All waters (rivers, streams and lakes) in the South Fork Flathead River Drainage from Hungry Horse Dam to the wilderness boundary and all waters within the boundaries of the Bob Marshall, Great Bear and Scapegoat Wilderness areas, unless otherwise specified under the Special Regulations.

Species	Rivers, Lakes & Streams	Exceptions
Combined Trout Limit: **Cutthroat trout** **Rainbow trout** **Grayling**	Daily and in possession 3	Rivers and streams: No fish over 12 inches

Transporting Live Fish

- It is unlawful to possess or transport live fish away from the body of water in which the fish were taken **except** for transportation of fish for valid commercial purposes.

Bait (Live)

- Live fish may not be imported into or exported from the State of Montana except by permit issued by FWP.
- It is illegal to use or capture live bait fish in any waters of the Western Fishing District.
- It is illegal to use sculpins or any portion of salmonids except eggs as bait.

Boat and Motor Restrictions

The use of boats and motors may be restricted on some of the waters within this fishing district. Please refer to the boat and motor restrictions described on pages 74-88. A complete, updated, copy of the Montana Boating Laws can be obtained from any FWP office or any FWP license agent.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Check below for the body of water you intend to fish. If the body of water is not found in the listing of Special Regulations, all of the standard seasons, daily/possession limits, and statewide regulations apply (see pages 4-11). **For waters listed under the Special Regulations, the possession limit is the same as the daily limit, unless a different possession limit is specified.**

Abbot Lake

- May 15 through June 30: 1 bass, 22 inch minimum.
- July 1 through May 14: 5 bass, only 1 over 12 inches.

Alice Creek (tributary to Blackfoot River)

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

Alvord Lake

- May 15 through June 30: 1 bass, 22 inch minimum.
- July 1 through May 14: 5 bass.

Anaconda Settling Pond System
(Map on page 17)

All waters in the Wildlife Management Area

- Catch-and-release only.
- Artificial lures only.
- Hog Hole open May 25 through September 30. Fishing from non-motorized boats is allowed, but access to the islands for any purpose is prohibited.
- Pond 3 open May 25 through September 30 to fishing from floating non-motorized craft and from north and west dikes except where posted closed.
- All ponds and canals open August 15 through September 30.

Mill/ Willow Bypass from Pond 3 spillway to Warm Springs Bridge

- Open entire year.
- No fishing from boats.

Willow Creek from Stewart Street Bridge to Wildlife Management Area boundary

- Catch-and-release only.
- Artificial lures only.

See Job Corps Ponds

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown trout, cutthroat trout, golden trout, rainbow trout, and grayling.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Anaconda Settling Pond System
(Regulations on page 16)

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown trout, cutthroat trout, golden trout, rainbow trout, and grayling.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Ashley Creek (near Kalispell)
- Open entire year downstream from Smith Lake.

Ashley Creek (near Thompson Falls)
- Closed entire year from Thompson Falls public water supply intake to source.

Ashley Lake
- 35 salmon daily and 70 in possession.

Ashley Lake Inlet tributaries
- Closed entire year.

Basin Creek (Silverbow County)
- Closed entire year from lower Butte water supply reservoir dam to its source, including all reservoirs and tributaries.

Basin Creek (Yaak drainage) and tributaries
- Open July 1 through November 30.
- Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, none over 10 inches.

Bear Creek (tributary to Middle Fork Flathead River)
- Angling is closed within 100 yard radius of the stream mouth June 1 through August 30.

Beaver Creek (tributary to Blackfoot River)
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

Beaver Lake (near Whitefish)
- Open to salmon snagging from September 15 through November 30.

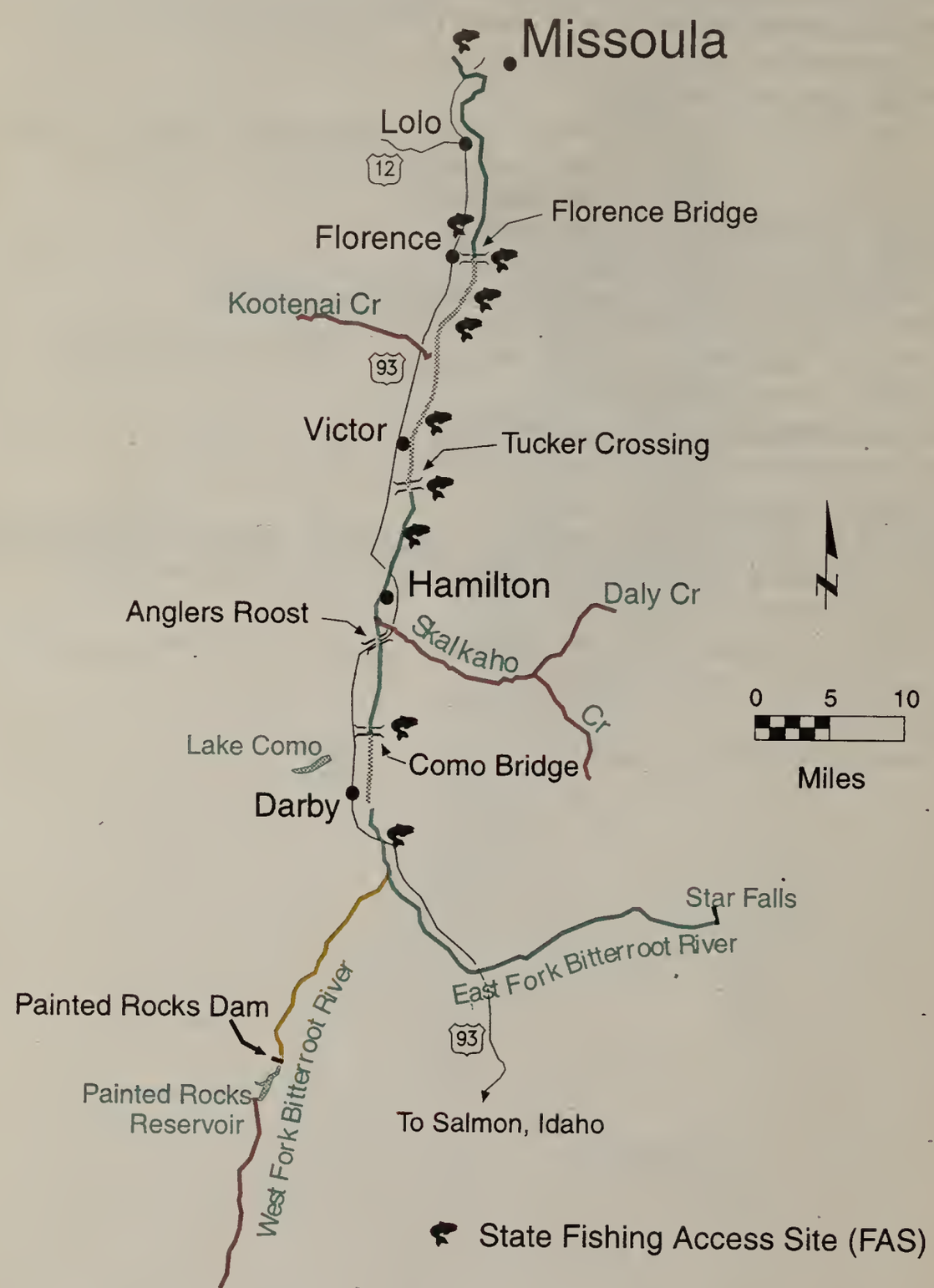
Big Creek (tributary to North Fork Flathead River) and its tributaries
- Closed entire year.
- Angling is closed within 100 yard radius of the stream mouth or as posted June 1 through August 30.

Bitterroot Lake
- See Little Bitterroot Lake

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown trout, cutthroat trout, golden trout, rainbow trout, and grayling.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Bitterroot River Map
(Regulations on page 20)



Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown trout, cutthroat trout, golden trout, rainbow trout, and grayling.

Bitterroot River
(Map on page 19)

...Special Limit Areas

West Fork above Painted Rocks Reservoir
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

West Fork from the mouth to Painted Rocks Dam
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- 3 rainbow or brown trout, no size limit.
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots and/or artificial lures only.

One mile downstream of Darby Bridge to Star Falls on the East Fork
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- 3 rainbow or brown trout, 1 over 14 inches.
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots and/or artificial lures only.

Tucker Crossing to Florence Bridge and one mile downstream from Darby to Como Bridge
- Catch-and-release for all trout.
- Artificial lures only.
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots and/or artificial lures only.

Como Bridge to Tucker Crossing
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- 3 rainbow or brown trout, 1 over 14 inches.
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots and/or artificial lures only.

Tucker Crossing to Florence Bridge
- Catch-and-release for trout.
- Artificial lures only.
- Extended season for whitefish and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots and/or artificial lures only.

Florence Bridge to mouth of the Bitterroot
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- 3 rainbow or brown trout, 1 over 14 inches.
- Extended season for whitefish and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots and/or artificial lures only.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown trout, cutthroat trout, golden trout, rainbow trout, and grayling.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Bitterroot Valley between U.S. 93 and the East Side Highway between Hamilton and Buckhouse Bridge (ditches, canals, and sloughs)

- Extended season for northern pike and whitefish and catch-and-release for trout December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

Blackfoot River

Mainstem and its tributaries (except the Clearwater River downstream from the Lake Inez Fish Barrier)

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, no rainbow trout over 12 inches, any size brown trout.

Mainstem only

- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

Stimson Lumber Dam downstream to Milltown Reservoir (Clark Fork River)

- Northern pike: no limit, extended season from December 1 to third Saturday in May, with artificial lures only.

Blue Sky Creek

- Closed entire year.

Bootjack Lake (near Whitefish)

- Open April 1 through November 30.
- Combined Trout Limit: 1 daily, 22 inch minimum.
- Artificial lures only.

Callahan, North Callahan, South Callahan creeks and tributaries (Kootenai River Drainage)

- Open July 1 through November 30.
- Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, none over 10 inches.

Callahan Creek

- June 1 through August 30: closed to fishing within 100 yard radius of the stream mouth.

Carpenter Lake (Eureka)

- See Tetrault Lake.

Church Slough

- Open year round.
- May 15 through June 30: 1 bass, 22 inch minimum.
- July 1 through May 14: 5 bass, only one over 12 inches.

Clarence Creek (near Eureka)

- Closed entire year.

Clark Fork River

Waters of Mill and Willow creeks, and Warm Springs Creek and the Clark Fork River upstream of Perkins Lane Bridge to the I-90 Bridge

- Catch-and-release only.
- Closed to fishing from boats.
- Open entire year.
- Above Warm Springs Bridge—See the Anaconda Settling Pond System regulations, page 16.
- Artificial lures only.

Perkins Lane Bridge to mouth of Flathead River

- Northern pike: no limit, extended season from December 1 to third Saturday in May, with artificial lures only.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown trout, cutthroat trout, golden trout, rainbow trout, and grayling.

Perkins Lane Bridge to mouth of Thompson River

- Cutthroat trout: catch-and-release.
- Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, none over 15 inches.
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout from December 1 to third Saturday in May, with aquatic insects, maggots and artificial lures only.

Mouth of Flathead River to mouth of Thompson River.

- Northern pike: open entire year with bait or lures.

Mouth of Thompson River to Idaho Border.

- Open entire year. Lake limits apply to entire reach.

Clearwater River Drainage

- See individual waters for salmon regulations.
- Bass: catch-and-release.
- Northern pike: no limit, open to spearing.

Upstream from Lake Inez Fish Barrier and tributaries of Clearwater River

- Cutthroat trout: catch-and-release.
- Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, none over 12 inches.

Clearwater River

- Open entire year downstream from the Lake Inez Fish Barrier.
- Open to salmon snagging from Lake Inez Fish Barrier to Seeley Lake from September 15 through November 30.
- Closed to snagging from Seeley Lake to Salmon Lake.

Coal Creek (tributary to North Fork Flathead River) and its tributaries

- Closed entire year.

Copper Creek (tributary to Blackfoot River)

- Cutthroat trout: catch-and-release.
- See Blackfoot River, page 18.

Cottonwood Creek (tributary to Blackfoot River)

- See Blackfoot River regulations, page 18.

Crystal Lake (Thompson Chain of Lakes)

- Open to salmon snagging September 15 through November 30.

Donaldson Creek Drainage (tributary to Lake Mary Ronan)

- Closed entire year.

East Fork Yaak River and its tributaries

- Open July 1 through November 30.
- Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, none over 10 inches.

Echo Lake (near Anaconda)

- Open third Saturday in May through March 31.
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily (including brook trout).

Echo Lake (near Bigfork)

- May 15 through June 30: 1 bass, 22 inch minimum.
- July 1 through May 14: 5 bass, only 1 over 12 inches.
- Open to spearing northern pike through the ice only.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown trout, cutthroat trout, golden trout, rainbow trout, and grayling.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Elk Creek (tributary to Swan River)

- Closed entire year.

Emily Springs (tributary to Georgetown Lake)

- Closed entire year.

Fennon Slough

- Open entire year.
- May 15 through June 30: 1 bass, 22 inch minimum.
- July 1 through May 14: 5 bass daily and in possession, only 1 over 12 inches.

Fish Creek (Mineral County)

- Combined Trout Limit: 3 rainbow or brown trout in any combination, none over 15 inches.
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

Fish Trap Creek and its tributaries excluding Fish Trap Lake (Thompson River Drainage)

- Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily under 10 inches.
- Artificial lures only.

Fisher River

- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

Flathead Indian Reservation

- A tribal fishing permit is needed for fishing on waters within the exterior boundary of the Reservation.
- Call Tribal Headquarters (406) 675-2700 for information.

Flathead Lake

- Bass: 5 daily, only 2 over 15 inches. All bass between 12 and 15 inches must be released.
- Cutthroat trout: catch-and-release.
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily, only 2 rainbow trout.
- Lake trout: 16 daily, 15 under 30 inches, and 1 over 36 inches.
- Lake whitefish: 50 daily.
- Yellow perch: 50 daily.
- Up to 2 attended lines with no more than 2 hooks per line.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown trout, cutthroat trout, golden trout, rainbow trout, and grayling.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Flathead River

From the confluence of the North and Middle forks to Flathead Lake

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily, 2 rainbow trout.
- 50 lake whitefish.
- 15 lake trout.
- Extended season for whitefish and lake trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only. Catch-and-release for all other game fish.

Flathead Indian Reservation boundary to mouth

- Open entire year.
- Northern pike: 5 daily, 24 inch minimum.

Flint Creek

- Extended season for whitefish and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

Flower Creek and its artificial impoundments from Power Dam to its source, excluding natural lakes (Libby water supply, Lincoln County)

- Closed entire year.

Foy Lake

- Combined Trout Limit: 10 daily.
- Open to salmon snagging from September 15 through November 30.

Fred Burr Lake (Philipsburg water supply, Granite County)

- Closed entire year.

Freeland Creek Drainage (tributary to Lake Mary Ronan)

- Closed entire year.

Georgetown Lake

- No daily or possession limit for salmon.
- 5 trout, includes brook and lake trout.
- Open third Saturday in May through March 31 except for the following restrictions:

South and East Shoreline

- The south and east shorelines are closed to fishing from the shore or within 100 yards of the shore April 1 through June 30. The closed area extends from a point 200 yards west of Denton's Point Marina (along the shore, including all of Stuart Mill Bay in its entirety) to a point 200 yards north from the mouth of the North Fork Flint Creek.

Tributaries to Georgetown Lake (North Fork Flint, Stuart Mill and Hardtla creeks)

- Open July 1 through November 30.

Goat Creek (tributary to Swan River)

- Closed entire year.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown trout, cutthroat trout, golden trout, rainbow trout, and grayling.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Granite Creek and its tributaries (Middle Fork Flathead River tributary)
- Closed entire year.

Grave Creek (near Eureka)
- Highway 93 bridge downstream to mouth open to salmon snagging September 15 through November 30.

Hardtla Creek (tributary to Georgetown Lake)
- Open July 1 through November 30.
- 5 trout, includes brook and lake trout.

Herrig Creek (tributary to Little Bitterroot Lake)
- Closed entire year.

Horseshoe Lake (Thompson Chain of Lakes)
- Western one-third of lake closed to fishing February 1 through May 15 as posted.
- Open to spearing for nongame fish.

Horseshoe Lake (near Ferndale)
- 5 bass under 12 inches, or 4 bass under 12 inches and 1 over 16 inches.

Hungry Horse Reservoir and its tributaries
- Wilderness Limits apply. See Wilderness Limits, page 15.

Job Corps Ponds (Deer Lodge County)
- Refer to map, page 17.
- Open August 15 through September 30.
- Catch-and-release only.
- Artificial lures only.

Keeler Creek
- Open third Saturday in May through July 15.

Kootenai Creek (tributary to Bitterroot River)
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

Kootenai River

Libby Dam to Idaho border
- Open entire year except Libby Dam to Hwy 37 bridge (near Fisher River).
- Combined Trout Limit: 4 daily, 3 under 13 inches and 1 over 18 inches. All trout between 13 and 18 inches must be released.
- Closed within 100 yard radius of the Callahan, O'Brien and Quartz creek stream mouths June 1 through August 30.

Libby Dam downstream to David Thompson Bridge and Kootenai Falls to one-half mile downstream from swinging bridge.
- Open to salmon snagging from September 15 through November 30.

Libby Dam to Highway 37 Bridge (near Fisher River)
- Closed from March 15 to third Saturday in May.
- Open remainder of year.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown trout, cutthroat trout, golden trout, rainbow trout, and grayling.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Lake Alva
- Salmon: 10 daily.
- Bass: catch and release.
- Open to spearing for northern pike.

Lake Blaine
- Bass: May 15 through June 30, 1 daily, 22 inch minimum. July 1 through May 14, 5 daily.

Lake Creek (near Troy)

Dam downstream to mouth
- Open to salmon snagging from September 15 through November 30.

Lake Inez
- Salmon: 5 daily.
- Bass: catch and release.
- Open to spearing for northern pike.

Lake Koocanusa
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily, only 1 over 22 inches.
- Closed to burbot (ling) fishing, January 15 through February 28.

Lake Mary Ronan
- Open third Saturday in May through February 28.
- Open March 1 to third Saturday in May: yellow perch only.
- Third Saturday in May through June 30: 1 bass, 22 inch minimum.
- July 1 through February 28: 5 bass.
- Salmon: 10 daily and 20 in possession.
- Closed to fishing from midnight to 3 a.m.

Landers Fork
- See Blackfoot River regulations, page 18.

Libby Creek
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open from December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

Lion Creek (tributary to Swan River)
- Closed entire year.

Lion Lake
- Combined Trout Limit: 10 daily.

Little Bitterroot Lake
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily, only 1 over 22 inches.

Little Blackfoot River
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

Little Loon Lake (Thompson Chain of Lakes area)
- Bass: May 15 through June 30, 1 daily, 22 inch minimum. July 1 through May 14, 5 daily.

Lodgepole Creek (Middle Fork Flathead River tributary) and its tributaries
- Closed entire year.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown trout, cutthroat trout, golden trout, rainbow trout, and grayling.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Long Creek (tributary to Middle Fork Flathead River) and its tributaries
- Closed entire year.

Loon Lake (Thompson Chain of Lakes)
- Bass: May 15 through June 30, 1 daily, 22 inch minimum. July 1 through May 14, 5 daily.

Lost Lake (Eureka)
- Open April 1 through November 30.
- Combined Trout Limit: 1 daily, 22 inch minimum.
- Artificial lures only.

Lower Stillwater Lake
- 15 lake trout.
- Open to spearing of northern pike through the ice only.

Lower Thompson Lake
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily, only 1 over 22 inches.
- May 15 through June 30: 1 bass, 22 inch minimum.
- July 1 through May 14: 5 bass.
- Salmon: 10 daily and 20 in possession.
- Open to spearing of northern pike through the ice only.

McGregor Lake
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily, only 1 over 22 inches. (Does not include lake trout, see standard regulations.)

Medicine Lake (near Philipsburg)
- Open July 1 through April 31.

Medicine Lake tributaries
- Open July 1 through November 30.

Metcalf Lake
- Open April 1 through November 30.
- Combined Trout Limit: 1 daily, 22 inch minimum.
- Artificial lures only.

Middle Fork Flathead River Drainage (all streams within the wilderness)
- Wilderness Limits apply. See Wilderness Limits, page 15.

Middle Fork Flathead River (non-wilderness portion)
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Combined Trout Limit: 2 rainbow trout.
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.
- Montana/Glacier National Park boundary is the ordinary high water mark on the park side of the river.
- Lake trout: 15 daily.
- Lake whitefish: 50 daily.
- Angling is closed within a 100 yard radius of the Bear Creek stream mouth June 1 through August 30.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown trout, cutthroat trout, golden trout, rainbow trout, and grayling.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Middle Thompson Lake
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily, only 1 over 22 inches.
- May 15 through June 30: 1 bass, 22 inch minimum.
- July 1 through May 14: 5 bass.
- Salmon: 10 daily and 20 in possession.
- Open to spearing of northern pike through the ice only.

Monture Creek
- See Blackfoot River regulations, page 21.

Morrison Creek (tributary to Middle Fork Flathead River) and its tributaries
- Closed entire year.

Nevada Creek (tributary to Blackfoot River)
- See Blackfoot River regulations, page 21.

North Fork Blackfoot River
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

North Fork Flathead River
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Combined Trout Limit: 2 rainbow trout.
- Lake whitefish: 50 daily.
- Lake trout: 15 daily.
- Extended season for whitefish and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.
- Angling is closed within 100 yard radius of the Big and Coal creek stream mouths June 1 through August 30.
- Montana/Glacier National Park boundary is the middle of the river.

North Fork Flint Creek (tributary to Georgetown Lake)
- Open July 1 through November 30.
- 5 trout, includes brook trout.

Noxon Rapids Reservoir
- May 15 through June 30: 1 bass, 22 inch minimum.
- July 1 through May 14: 5 bass.

O'Brien Creek
- Closed entire year from Troy city water intake to a point one-fourth mile upstream as posted.
- Angling is closed within 100 yard radius of the stream mouth June 1 through August 30.

Peterson Lake
- May 15 through June 30: 1 bass, 22 inch minimum.
- July 1 through May 14: 5 bass, only 1 over 12 inches.

Petty Creek
- Combined Trout Limit: 3 rainbow or brown trout in any combination, none over 15 inches.
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown trout, cutthroat trout, golden trout, rainbow trout, and grayling.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Placid Creek (tributary to Placid Lake)

- 10 salmon.
- Open for snagging salmon September 15 through December 31, 35 salmon daily and 70 in possession.
- Open to spearing for northern pike.

Placid Lake

- 10 salmon.
- Catch-and-release for bass.
- Open for snagging salmon September 15 through November 30, 35 salmon daily and 70 in possession.
- Open to spearing for northern pike.

Quartz Creek (Kootenai River Drainage)

- Open third Saturday in May through July 15.
- Angling is closed within 100 yard radius of the stream mouth June 1 through August 30.

Rattlesnake Creek

Upstream from the mouth of Beeskove Creek

- Open entire year.
- Catch-and-release only.
- Artificial lures only.

Rattlesnake Creek and its tributaries

- Closed entire year from Missoula water supply dam of Mountain Water Company to the mouth of Beeskove Creek.

Rock Creek (near Clinton) from its mouth to the confluence of the East and West forks

- 3 brown trout, none over 12 inches.
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat and rainbow trout.
- Artificial lures only, except anglers 12 years of age and younger may use bait.
- Extended season for whitefish and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.
- Closed to fishing from boats July 1 through November 30.

Rogers Lake

- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily, only one may be a grayling.

Rogers Lake spawning inlet

- Closed entire year.

Salmon Lake and its tributaries

- 5 salmon.
- Catch-and-release for bass.
- Open to spearing for northern pike.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown trout, cutthroat trout, golden trout, rainbow trout, and grayling.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Seeley Lake

- 10 salmon. Open for snagging salmon September 15 through December 31, when 35 salmon daily and 70 in possession are allowed.
- Catch-and-release for bass.
- Open to spearing for northern pike.

Skalkaho Creek (tributary to Bitterroot River) including Daly Creek

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

South Fork Flathead River Drainage (all waters upstream from Hungry Horse Dam, including Hungry Horse Reservoir) and tributaries

- Wilderness Limits apply. See Wilderness Limits, page 15.

From Meadow Creek Bridge to Spotted Bear footbridge

- Catch-and-release only.
- Artificial lures only.

Hungry Horse Dam downstream to Devil's Elbow

- Closed entire year.

Devil's Elbow downstream to mouth

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Combined Trout Limit: 2 rainbow trout.
- Whitefish: 50 daily.
- Lake trout: 15 daily.
- Extended season for whitefish and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

Squeezer Creek (tributary to Swan River)

- Closed entire year.

St. Regis River

- Combined Trout Limit: 3 rainbow or brown trout in any combination, none over 15 inches.
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

Stillwater River and its tributaries

- Lake whitefish: 50 daily.
- Lake trout: 15 daily.
- Open entire year from mouth of Sunday Creek to lower Stillwater Lake.

Stuart Mill Creek (tributary to Georgetown Lake)

- Open July 1 through November 30.
- 5 trout: includes brook trout and lake trout.

Swan Lake

- Daily and possession limit for bull trout is 1 fish. Upon catching a bull trout, an angler must either kill it at once and count it as the limit, or release it. It is unlawful to possess a live bull trout for any reason.

Swan River

- Angling is closed within a 100 yard radius of Woodward Creek June 1 through August 30.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown trout, cutthroat trout, golden trout, rainbow trout, and grayling.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Piper Creek Bridge downstream to Swan Lake
- Catch-and-release for rainbow and cutthroat trout.
- Artificial lures only.

From Swan Lake to Flathead Lake
- Open entire year.
- Flathead Lake limits and seasons apply.

Tetrault Lake
- Combined Trout Limit: 10 daily.

Thompson River
- Combined Trout Limit: 3 less than 10 inches or 2 less than 10 inches and 1 over 18 inches.
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Artificial lures only, except anglers 12 years of age and younger may use bait.
- Extended season for whitefish and catch and release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May from the confluence with the Clark Fork River to the mouth of Little Thompson River with artificial lures or maggots only.
- Closed to fishing December 1 to third Saturday in May from mouth of Little Thompson River upstream.

Tobacco River
- Open to snagging of salmon September 15 through November 30.

Trail Creek (Yakinikak) and its tributaries
- Closed entire year downstream from mouth of Thoma Creek.

Triangle Pond
- Combined Trout Limit: 10 daily.

Upper Stillwater Lake
- Lake trout: 15 daily.
- Open to spearing of northern pike through the ice only.

Upper Thompson Lake
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily, only one over 22 inches.
- May 15 through June 30: 1 bass, 22 inch minimum.
- July 1 through May 14: 5 bass.
- Open to spearing of northern pike through the ice only.
- Salmon: 10 daily and 20 in possession.

Upsata Lake
- Catch-and-release for bass.
- No limit on northern pike.
- Open to spearing of northern pike.

West Fork Quartz Creek (Kootenai River Drainage)
- Open third Saturday in May through July 15.

West Fork Thompson River and its tributaries
- Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily under 10 inches.
- Artificial lures only.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown trout, cutthroat trout, golden trout, rainbow trout, and grayling.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Whale Creek (tributary to North Fork Flathead) and its tributaries
- Closed entire year downstream from Whale Creek Falls.

Whitefish Lake
- 2 cutthroat or 2 rainbow trout (or 1 each) only 1 over 14 inches.
- Lake trout: 15 daily, under 30 inches and 1 over 36 inches.
- Lake whitefish: 50 daily.

Whitefish River
- Open entire year from Whitefish Lake to State Highway 40 Bridge.

Wigwam River (Kootenai River Drainage)
- Catch-and-release for trout.
- Artificial lures only.

Wildlife Management Ponds
- See Job Corps Ponds (page 25).

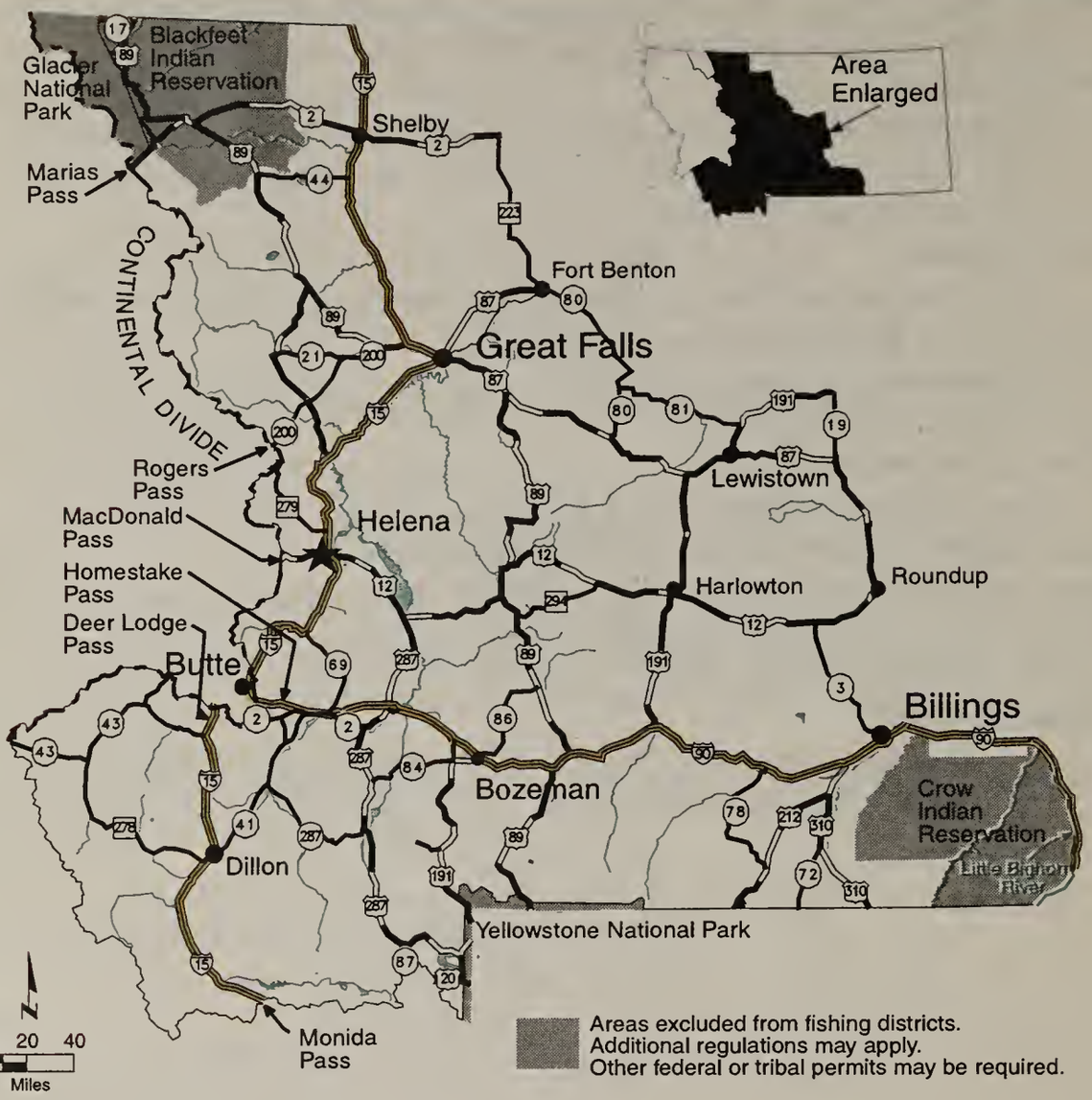
Willow Creek (near Anaconda Settling Ponds)

From Stewart Street Bridge to the Wildlife Management Area
- Catch-and-release only.
- Artificial lures only.

Woodward Creek
- Angling is closed within a 100 yard radius of the stream mouth June 1 through August 30.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown trout, cutthroat trout, golden trout, rainbow trout, and grayling.

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT



Central Fishing District

The Central Fishing District includes all waters in Montana east of the Continental Divide, (including the Belly and St Mary's River drainages) and west of the following described boundary: Interstate 15 from the Montana-Canada border south to its junction with Hwy 2 at Shelby, then east on Hwy 2 to Chester, then south on Hwy 223 to State Route 80 at Fort Benton, then southeasterly along State Route 80 to its junction with State Route 81, then easterly on State Route 81 to its junction with U.S. Highway 191, then northeasterly along U.S. Highway 191 to its junction with State Route 19, then south on State Route 19 to its junction with U.S. Highway 87 at Grassrange, then south on U.S. Highway 87 to its junction with U.S. Highway 12 at Roundup, then west on U.S. Highway 12 to its junction with State Route 3 at Lavina, then south on State Route 3 to its junction with Interstate 90 at Billings, then easterly and southerly on Interstate 90 to the first crossing of the Little Bighorn River, then southerly along the west bank of the Little Bighorn River to the Montana-Wyoming border.

Note: Roadways that are used as boundaries between the Central and Eastern Fishing Districts are interpreted to be in the Central Fishing District.

For additional information regarding the boundaries in this fishing district, please call the following regional headquarters:

Billings . . . . . (406) 247-2940
Bozeman . . . . . (406) 994-4042
Butte Area Office . . . . . (406) 494-1953
Great Falls . . . . . (406) 454-5840
Lewistown Area Office . (406) 538-4658
Helena Area Office . . . . (406) 444-4720
TTY . . . . . (406) 444-1200
(Telephone device for the deaf)

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT

IMPORTANT CENTRAL DISTRICT REGULATION CHANGES

- Know the Law and Avoid Violations

- Following are some of the waters with important changes that were made from the 1998-1999 fishing regulations. Please read the 2000-2001 regulations throughly to avoid unintentional violations.

  Bean Lake
  Beaver Creek (tributary to Missouri River below Hauser Dam)
  Buffalo Cree (Fork of Slough Creek)
  Canyon Ferry Reservoir
  Dearborn River
  Elk Lake
  Hauser Reservoir
  Hellroaring Creek
  Holter Reservoir
  Lake Levale
  Marias River
  Missouri River
  Otter Lake
  Slough Creek
  Soda Butte Creek
  Twin Lakes

- The northeastern boundary between the Central and Eastern districts has been changed, page 33.
- A $5 Warm Water Game Fish Stamp is required to possess fish caught in designated waters. Check waters listed under "Warm Water Game Fish Stamp."

Standard Fishing Seasons

Lakes and Reservoirs

Open entire year. See Central Fishing District Special Regulations for exceptions.

Rivers and Streams

Open third Saturday in May through November 30. See Central Fishing District Special Regulations for exceptions.

Standard Fishing Regulations

A valid fishing license is required for all types of fishing.

Warm Water Game Fish Stamp

The 1999 Montana Legislature passed a bill to require the purchase of a warm water game fish stamp. See page 2 for details regarding this new stamp. The warm water game fish stamp is required to possess warm water fish on the following waters in the Central Fishing District:

Big Casino Creek Reservoir, Fergus County
Bighorn Lake, Carbon & Big Horn County
(Continued on next page)

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT

The warm water game fish stamp is required to possess warm water fish on the following waters in the Central Fishing District:

Broadview Reservoir, Yellowstone County
Bynum Reservoir, Teton County
Cooney Reservoir, Carbon County
Dailey Lake, Park County
Deadmans Basin Reservoir, Wheatland County
Kolar Reservoir #1, Judith Basin County
Kolar Reservoir #2, Judith Basin County
Kolar Reservoir #8, Judith Basin County
Lake Frances, Pondera County
Lake Josephine, Yellowstone County
Lower Carter Pond, Fergus County
Morony Dam Lake, Cascade County
Tunis Reservoir, Chouteau County
Wadsworth Reservoir, Cascade County
Warm Springs Creek, Fergus County

Hook and Line Limits

- On lakes and reservoirs, two attended lines with up to 2 hooks per line may be used.
- On streams and rivers a single line with up to 2 hooks may be used.
- Anglers may use unattended lines (setlines) only in those waters noted in the Special Regulations for this district. Unattended lines (setlines) must be clearly identified with the owner's complete name and address and shall not be attached to jugs or other floating devices.

Ice Fishing

All lakes and reservoirs in the Central District are open for using 2 attended lines with 2 hooks per line for fishing through the ice. More than 2 lines are permitted on some waters as specified under the district's Special Regulations.

Bow and Arrow

All waters open to angling are open to taking nongame fish with bow and arrow. Crossbows, however, are illegal.

Snagging

All waters open to angling are open to snagging of nongame fish. (See Statewide Regulations, page 5.)

Spearing

In all waters open to fishing, nongame fish may be taken with rubber or spring-propelled spears by persons swimming or submerged.

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT

Standard Daily and Possession Limits - includes all tables below

- Each angler may take all of the limits listed in each chart unless noted otherwise in the Special Regulations.
- Anglers who move from one fishing water to another may possess only the limit of fish allowed for the water on which they are currently fishing.
- Irrigation Canals and Ditches - the same daily and possession limits apply as for rivers and streams.

Rivers & Streams

Species	Daily and in possession	Exceptions
Combined Trout Limit (Includes the following in any combination): **Brown trout** **Golden trout** **Rainbow trout**	5 daily and in possession	Only one fish over 18 inches.
Cutthroat trout*	*generally 0	See special cutthroat trout rules below.

*Special Cutthroat Trout Rules: See map page 37

- **Missouri River Drainage** (from the mouth of the Judith River above the PN Bridge on State Highway 236 northwest of Winifred): Cutthroat trout must be released in all rivers and streams.
- **Yellowstone River Drainage**

  Mainstem Yellowstone River

  - Yellowstone National Park boundary to the I-90 Bridge at Billings: Cutthroat trout must be released.

  Tributaries to Yellowstone River

  - All rivers and streams downstream from Yellowstone National Park to Springdale, approximately 18 miles east of Livingston, unless otherwise noted under the Special Regulations: Cutthroat trout must be released.
  - Streams tributary to the Yellowstone River downstream from Springdale: Cutthroat trout may be harvested as part of the Combined Trout Limit.

Grayling	0	All grayling must be released.

Lakes

Species	Daily and in possession	Exceptions
Combined Trout Limit (Includes the following in any combination): **Brown trout** **Cutthroat trout** **Golden trout** **Rainbow trout** **Grayling**	5 daily and 10 in possession	

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT

Cutthroat Trout Catch and Release Boundary(see legal description page 36.)

Rivers, Lakes & Streams

Species	Daily and in possession	Exceptions
Bass	5	
Brook trout	20	
Burbot (ling)	10	
Catfish	20	
Cisco (lake herring)	No Limit	Tiber Res. Marias River
Lake trout	3	
Northern pike	10	
Salmon	10	
Sauger/Walleye	5 daily and 10 in possession	
Shovelnose sturgeon	5	40-inch maximum length. It is unlawful to take or possess a pallid sturgeon.
Tiger muskellunge	1	30 inch minimum size.
Whitefish	100	

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT

Transporting Live Fish

It is unlawful to possess or transport live fish away from the body of water in which the fish were taken **except** for: 1) transportation of fish for authorized commercial purposes; 2) for use as live bait subject to any further restrictions imposed by the FWP Commission; 3) within the boundaries of the Eastern Fishing District.

It is unlawful to possess or transport live fish on roadways which form the boundary between the Eastern and Central fishing districts.

Bait (Live)

- Live fish may not be imported into or exported from the State of Montana except by permit issued by FWP.
- Live nongame fish (except sculpins, carp, goldfish, all species in the sunfish family and bullhead catfish family, yellow perch, and rainbow smelt) may be taken and used for bait only in the following waters:
  - Bighorn Lake and Afterbay Reservoir.
  - Bighorn River—Afterbay Dam to the cable 600 feet downstream and downstream from the Bighorn FAS.
  - Clarks Fork Yellowstone River — downstream from the bridge at Bridger.
  - Kammerzell Reservoir, Liberty County
  - Marias River and tributaries downstream from I-15.
  - Missouri River downstream from Morony Dam.
  - Muddy Creek Drainage near Vaughn, including all streams and drainage canals.
  - Streams and ditches in the Yellowstone River Drainage downstream from the mouth of the Clarks Fork (except the section of the Bighorn River from the cable 600 feet downstream of the Afterbay Dam to Bighorn FAS).
  - Teton River and tributaries downstream from I-15.
  - Tiber Reservoir (Lake Elwell), Toole and Liberty counties

Boat and Motor Restrictions

The use of boats and motors may be restricted on some waters within this fishing district. Please refer to the boat and motor restrictions described on pages 74-88. A complete, updated, copy of Montana Boating Laws can be obtained from any FWP office or any FWP license agent.

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Check below for the body of water you intend to fish. If the body of water is not found in the listing of Special Regulations, all of the standard seasons, daily/possession limits, and statewide regulations apply (see pages 4-11).

For waters listed under the Special Regulations, the possession limit is the same as the daily limit, unless a different possession limit is specified.

Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Lakes
- Combined Trout Limit: 10 daily.

Alder Gulch Creek and dredge ponds
- Open entire year from mouth to Virginia City.

Antelope Butte Lake (Teton County)
See Ostle Reservoir.

Armstrong Spring Creek
- Open entire year.
- Catch-and-release only.
- Artificial lures only.

Arod Lakes
See Eyraud Lakes.

Axolotl Lakes
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily.
- Catch-and-release for grayling.

Bad Canyon Creek
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

Badger Creek Drainage (near Heart Butte) within National Forest
Below confluence of North Badger and South Badger creeks
- Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, none over 12 inches, includes cutthroat trout.

Bean Lake
Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, only 1 over 18 inches.

Bear Lake (Sun River Drainage)
- Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily.

Beaver Creek (tributary to Canyon Ferry Reservoir)
Mouth to US Highway 12
- Open June 15 through September 30.

Beaver Creek (tributary to Missouri River below Hauser Dam)
- Open June 15 through November 30.

Beaverhead River
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily, 1 over 18 inches, only 1 may be a rainbow trout.

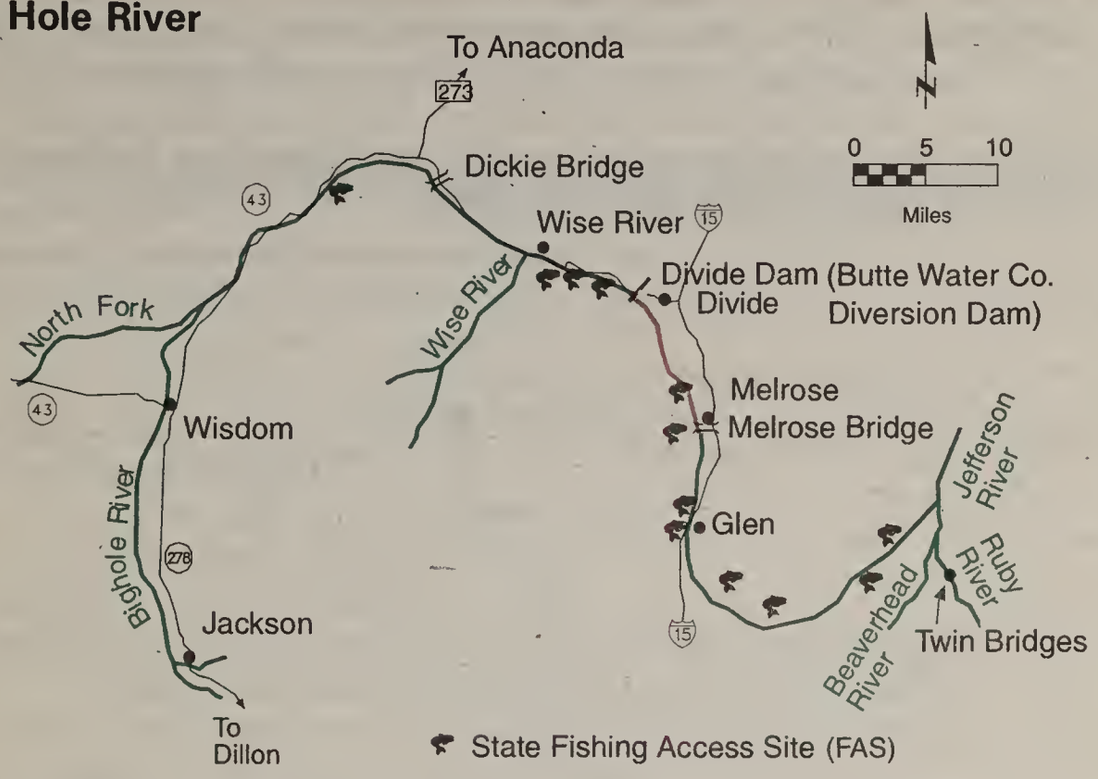
Clark Canyon Dam to Pipe Organ Bridge
- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Downstream from Pipe Organ Bridge
- Open entire year.

Belt Creek
- Open entire year downstream from bridge at Riceville.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown , golden , and rainbow trout in rivers and streams, and also cutthroat trout and grayling in lakes.

Big Hole River



Entire river and tributaries
- Catch-and-release for grayling and cutthroat trout.

Headwaters to Dickie Bridge
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout from December 1 to third Saturday in May with maggots and/or artificial lures only.

Dickie Bridge to Divide Dam (Butte Water Diversion)
- Artificial lures only.
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout from December 1 to third Saturday in May with maggots and/or artificial lures only.

Divide Dam to Melrose Bridge
- Combined Trout Limit: 4 daily, 3 under 13 inches and 1 over 22 inches. All trout between 13 and 22 inches must be released.
- Artificial lures only.
- Closed to all fishing December 1 to third Saturday in May.

Melrose Bridge to mouth
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout from December 1 to third Saturday in May with maggots and/or artificial lures only.

Tributaries upstream from Divide Dam
- Open entire year for brook trout.

Big Sheep Creek and its tributaries (Beaverhead River Drainage)
- Combined Trout Limit: includes cutthroat trout.
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout in Meadow, Muddy and Simpson creeks.

Big Spring Creek (near Lewistown)
- Open entire year.

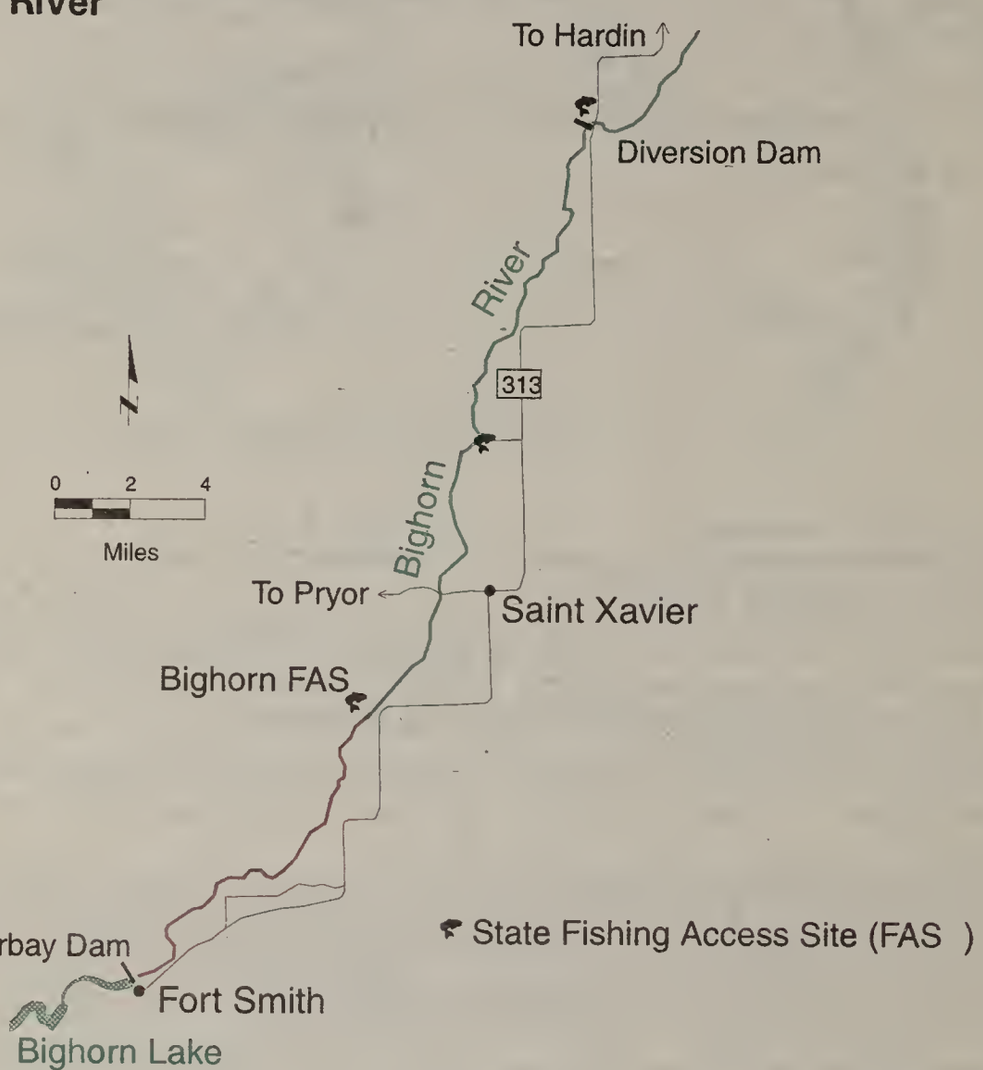
Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown , golden , and rainbow trout in rivers and streams, and also cutthroat trout and grayling in lakes.

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Bighorn Lake and Afterbay Reservoir

- 6 walleye, sauger, and bass in any combination.
- 6 catfish.
- Up to 6 attended lines, with 1 hook per line allowed through the ice only.
- Bighorn Lake anglers obtaining live bait fish in Montana may only use them in the Montana portion of the lake.

Bighorn River



Afterbay Dam to cable 600 feet downstream and downstream from Bighorn FAS

- Open entire year.
- May use live nongame bait fish (as identified on page 38).
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily, only 1 over 18 inches and only 1 rainbow trout.

Cable 600 feet below Afterbay Dam to Bighorn FAS

- Open entire year.
- Catch-and-release for rainbow trout.
- Artificial lures only.
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 brown trout, only 1 over 18 inches.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown , golden , and rainbow trout in rivers and streams, and also cutthroat trout and grayling in lakes.

Black Sands Spring Creek (a tributary to South Fork Madison River)
- Open June 15 through November 30.

Blacktail Deer Creek and its tributaries (Beaverhead River Drainage)
- Combined Trout Limit: includes cutthroat trout.
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout in Cottonwood, Jake and Rock creeks, and the two Rock Creek reservoirs on Robb-Ledford WMA.

Bluewater Creek

(See Clarks Fork Yellowstone River.)

Boulder River (near Big Timber) and its tributaries
- Open entire year.
- Combined Trout Limit: 2 daily, only 1 over 13 inches.

Natural Bridge to Two-Mile Bridge (first crossing, 5 road miles upstream from Natural Bridge)
- Catch-and-release for rainbow trout.
- Artificial lures only.

Boulder River (near Cardwell)

Mouth to bridge (4 straight-line miles upstream in T2N, R3W, S24)
- Open third Saturday in May through September 30.

Brimstone Creek (tributary to Hidden Lake, Madison County)
- Open third Saturday in June through November 30.

Buffalo Creek (Fork of Slough Creek)
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily, only 3 may be cutthroat trout (none over 12 inches), only 1 rainbow trout over 18 inches.

Bynum Reservoir
- Open entire year for up to 2 unattended lines (setlines) with no more than 2 hooks per line, except 6 lines with 6 hooks per line may be used to fish through ice.

Canyon Ferry Dam Structure
- Closed as posted.

Canyon Ferry Reservoir
- 6 unattended lines (setlines) with 2 hooks per line may be used through ice.
- Walleye: 20 daily and 40 in possession.
- Yellow perch: 50 daily and no possession limit.

Magpie Bay
- closed (as posted) March 1 through June 14.

Clark Canyon Reservoir
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily.

Springs entering the reservoir at its south end, near Red Rock River
- Closed as posted.

Clarks Fork Yellowstone River and its tributaries
- Open entire year.

Mainstem downstream from the bridge at Bridger
- Fishing is allowed the entire year with up to 6 attended or unattended lines (setlines) with up to 6 hooks per line.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown , golden , and rainbow trout in rivers and streams, and also cutthroat trout and grayling in lakes.

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Cliff Lake (Madison River Drainage)
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily.

Collar Gulch (near Lewistown)
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

Confederate Gulch Creek (tributary to Canyon Ferry Reservoir)
Mouth to Highway 284
- Open June 15 through September 30.

Cougar Creek (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)
- Open June 15 through November 30.

Crooked Creek (Carbon County)
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

Culver Pond (Widow's Pool)(Beaverhead County)
- Open July 15 through September 30.
- Brook trout: 5 daily, 4 under 12 inches and 1 over 18 inches. All brook trout between 12 and 18 inches must be released.
- Artificial lures only.

Cut Bank Creek
- Open entire year downstream of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation boundary in T33N, R6W, S2.

Dailey Lake (Yellowstone River Drainage)
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily.

Darlington Ditch (Darlington Spring Creek) on Cobblestone Fishing Access Site (near Three Forks)
- Open entire year.
- Catch-and-release for trout.
- Artificial lures only.

Deadman's Basin Reservoir
- Salmon snagging through ice only: 35 daily and 70 in possession.
- Combined Trout Limit: 10 daily.

Dearborn River upstream from Highway 434 Bridge in T18N R6W, Section 29
- Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, only 1 over 12 inches, includes cutthroat trout.

Deep Creek (Upper Missouri River tributary near Townsend)
Mouth to the North Fork of Deep Creek
- Open June 15 through September 30.

Dickens Lake (Sun River Wildlife Management Area)
- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Diversion Lake (Sun River Drainage)
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily.
- Catch-and-release for grayling.

Dry Creek (Upper Missouri River tributary near Townsend)
Mouth to Flynn Lane
- Open June 15 through September 30.

Duck Creek (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)
- Open June 15 through November 30.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown , golden , and rainbow trout in rivers and streams, and also cutthroat trout and grayling in lakes.

East Boulder River

See Boulder River near Big Timber.

East Fork Boulder River

See Boulder River near Big Timber.

East Fork Hyalite Creek

- Open third Saturday in July through November 30.

East Gallatin River

- Open entire year downstream from the mouth of Bozeman (Sourdough) Creek.

East Rosebud Creek

See Stillwater River.

Elk Lake (Beaverhead County)

- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily.
- Lake trout: catch and release.

Elks Club Pond (Lewistown)

- Open to fishing only for persons 12 years of age and younger.

Ennis Lake

- Catch-and-release for grayling.

Eyraud (Arod) Lakes

- 6 unattended lines (setlines) with 2 hooks per line may be used to fish through ice only.
- Spearing for northern pike and nongame fish through ice only.

Fairgrounds Pond, Helena

- Open to fishing only for persons 12 years of age and younger.

Ferguson Lake (Bighole River Drainage)

- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily.

Fishtail Creek

See Stillwater River.

Foolhen Lake (Big Hole River Drainage)

- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily.

Gallatin River

- Open entire year.

Yellowstone National Park to East Gallatin River

- Closed to fishing from boats.

Gheny Pond (near Twin Bridges)

- Open to fishing only to persons 12 years of age and younger.

Giant Springs (near Great Falls)

- Closed entire year where enclosed by concrete walks and masonry work.

Gibson Reservoir

Gibson Dam upstream to the point where the North and South forks of the Sun River meet, regardless of reservoir levels.

- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily.
- Catch-and-release for grayling.

Goose Lake (Madison County)

- Open third Saturday in June through November 30.
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown , golden , and rainbow trout in rivers and streams, and also cutthroat trout and grayling in lakes.

Grayling Creek (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)
- Open June 15 through November 30.

Half Moon Creek (near Lewistown)
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

Harrison (Willow Creek) Reservoir (Madison County)
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily, only 1 over 18 inches.

Willow Creek arm, as posted
- Open third Saturday in May through February 28.

Tributaries to Harrison (Willow Creek) Reservoir (North Willow, South Willow and Norwegian creeks) near Harrison from the Highway 287 Bridges to Harrison Reservoir)
- Open third Saturday in June through November 30.

Hauser Dam structure and adjacent water as posted
- Closed entire year.

Hauser Reservoir (includes Canyon Ferry tailwater and Lake Helena)
- Daily limit: 5 trout and salmon in any combination.
- Possession limit: 10 trout and salmon in any combination.
- Catch and release for brown trout
- Walleye: 10 daily, only 1 over 28 inches.
- Yellow perch: 50 daily and no possession limit.
- Closed to fishing from midnight to 3 a.m.
- 6 unattended lines (setlines) with 2 hooks per line through the ice only.

Hebgen Reservoir
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily.

Tributaries to Hebgen Reservoir (Cougar, Duck, Grayling, Red Canyon, Rumbaugh, Trapper and Watkins creeks and South Fork Madison River)
- Open June 15 through November 30.

Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir
- Open for salmon snagging September 1 through October 31, 35 salmon daily and 70 in possession.
- 3 unattended lines (setlines) with up to 2 hooks per line through the ice only.

Hellroaring Creek (Yellowstone River Drainage)
- Cutthroat trout: 3 daily, none over 12 inches.

Hells Canyon Creek (Jefferson River Drainage)
- Catch-and-release for rainbow trout.

Hidden Lake (Madison County)
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily.
- Open third Saturday in June through November 30.

Hidden Lake (Our Lake) Teton County
- Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily.

Holter Dam

Abutment and spillway structures below the dam
- Closed entire year.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown , golden , and rainbow trout in rivers and streams, and also cutthroat trout and grayling in lakes.

Holter Dam to Cascade Bridge

- Combined Trout Limit: 3 rainbow trout, only 1 over 16 inches; 1 brown trout, 22 inch minimum.

Holter Reservoir

- Open entire year.
- Catch-and-release for brown trout.
- Daily limit: 5 rainbow trout and salmon in any combination.
- Possession limit: 10 rainbow trout and salmon in any combination.
- Yellow perch: 50 daily and no possession limit.
- Closed to fishing from midnight to 3 a.m.
- 6 unattended lines (setlines) with up to 2 hooks per line through the ice only.
- Walleye: 6 daily, 5 under 20 inches and 1 over 28 inches. All walleye between 20 and 28 inches must be released.

Hyalite Creek

See East Fork Hyalite and West Fork Hyalite creeks.

Hyalite Reservoir

- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily.
- Catch-and-release for grayling.

Tributaries to Hyalite Reservoir (East Fork Hyalite Creek and West Fork Hyalite Creek)

- Open third Saturday in July through November 30.

Indian Road Pond (near Townsend)

- Open to fishing only for persons 12 years of age and younger, holders of a "Resident Person with a Disability Conservation License", or holders of a "Permit to Hunt From a Vehicle," with the proper prerequisite fishing license.

Intake Reservoir (Glacier Park Hotel Company water supply)

- Closed entire year.

Jefferson River

- Open entire year.
- Catch-and-release for rainbow trout.
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 brown trout, only 1 over 18 inches.

Kiyo Lake (Pondera County)

- Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily.

Lake Elwell

See Tiber Reservoir.

Lake Frances

- Open entire year for up to 2 unattended lines (setlines) with no more than 2 hooks per line, except 6 lines with 6 hooks per line may be used to fish through ice.
- Spearing for northern pike, walleye, sauger, burbot (ling) and nongame fish is open through the ice only.
- Closed entire year around the water supply outlet as posted.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown , golden , and rainbow trout in rivers and streams, and also cutthroat trout and grayling in lakes.

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Lake Helena
- Hauser Reservoir fishing regulations apply, see page 45.

Lake Levale
- Grayling: 3 daily.

Lightning Creek (Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness)
- Open August 1 through November 30.

Little Prickly Pear Creek (tributary to Missouri River near Craig)
- Open third Saturday in May through Labor Day downstream from the I-15 Bridge near Sieben (T13N, R4W, Section 4).

Lyman Creek (near Bozeman)
- Closed entire year from the city water supply intake to a point 1,000 feet upstream as posted.

Madison River
See page 48

Magpie Creek (tributary to Canyon Ferry Reservoir)
- Open June 15 through September 30.

Marias River
- Open entire year downstream from I-15 bridge.
- 2 unattended lines (setlines) with up to 2 hooks per line.
- Whitefish and cisco must be released immediately or killed upon capture.
- Whitefish: 35 daily.
- Sauger: 1 daily. Sauger and walleye may be dressed and filleted before transport to a permanent residence, but the entire skin must be attached to the fillet for identification.

McDonalds Pond (Beaverhead County)
- Open July 15 through September 30.
- 1 rainbow trout over 20 inches.
- Artificial lures only.

Midvale Creek
- Closed entire year from intake of Glacier Park Hotel Company water supply to the park boundary.

Mill Creek (near Sheridan)
- Open entire year.

Missouri River
See page 50.

Musselshell River (downstream from where North and South forks meet)
- Open entire year.

Nelson Spring Creek
- Open entire year.
- Catch-and-release only.
- Artificial lures only.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown , golden , and rainbow trout in rivers and streams, and also cutthroat trout and grayling in lakes.

Madison River

(Map on page 49)

Seasons

Yellowstone National Park boundary to Hebgen Reservoir

- Open Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30.

Hebgen Dam to Quake Lake

- Open entire year.

Quake Lake outlet to McAtee Bridge

- Open third Saturday in May through end of February.

McAtee Bridge to Ennis Bridge

- Open entire year.

Ennis Bridge to Ennis Lake

- Open third Saturday in May through end of February.

Ennis Dam to the mouth

- Open entire year.

Limits

Yellowstone National Park boundary to Hebgen Reservoir

- Catch-and-release for rainbow trout.
- Standard limits apply for all other trout species.

Hebgen Dam to Quake Lake

- Standard limits apply.

Quake Lake outlet to Varney Bridge

- Catch-and-release for trout.
- Artificial lures only.

Varney Bridge to Ennis Lake

- Catch-and-release for rainbow trout.
- Limit: 5 brown trout, only 1 over 18 inches.

Ennis Dam to mouth

- Standard limits apply.

Restrictions on fishing from boats

Quake Lake Outlet to Lyon Bridge

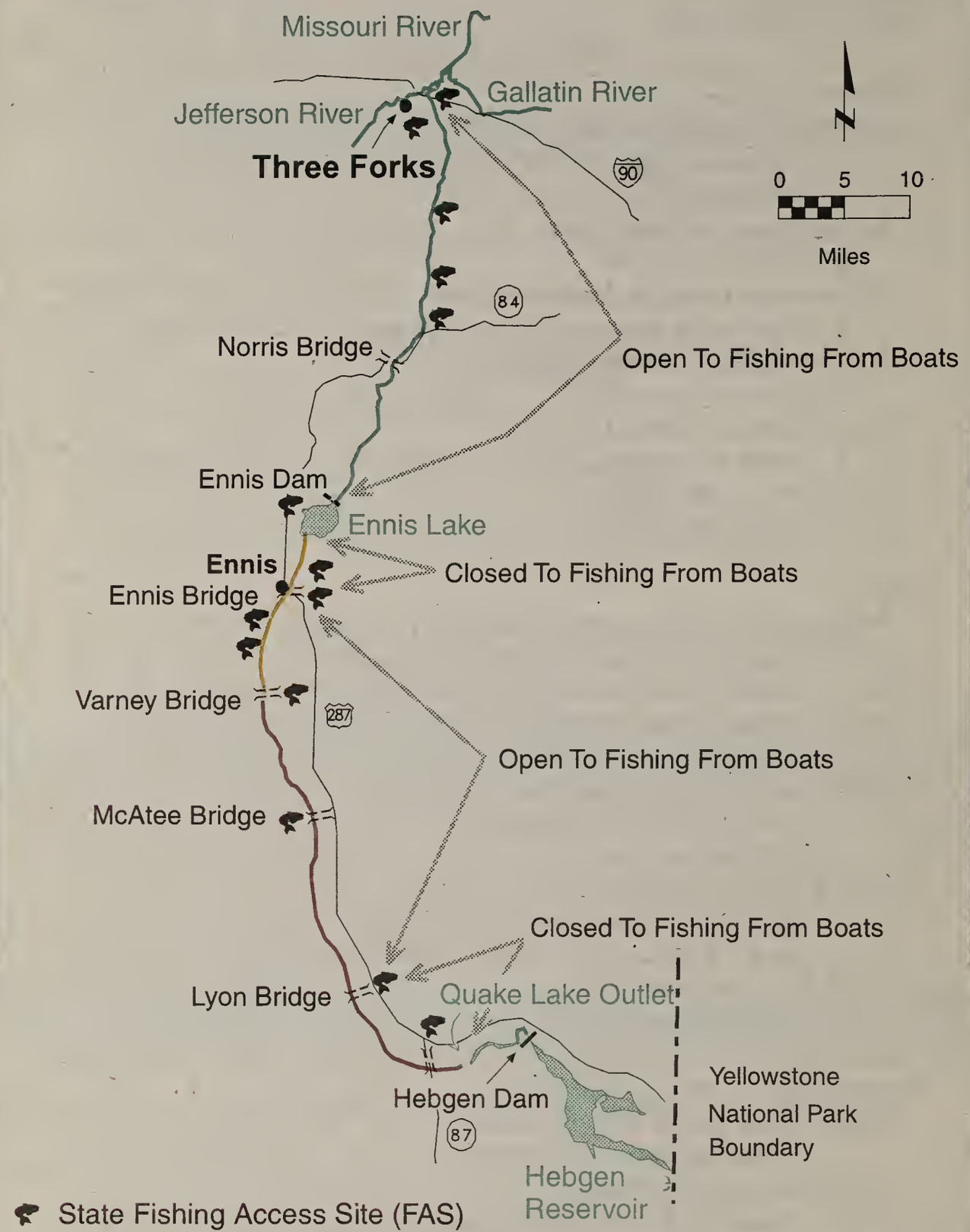
- Closed to fishing from boats.

Ennis Bridge to Ennis Lake

- Closed to fishing from boats.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown , golden , and rainbow trout in rivers and streams, and also cutthroat trout and grayling in lakes.

Madison River
(Regulations on page 48)



Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown , golden , and rainbow trout in rivers and streams, and also cutthroat trout and grayling in lakes.

Missouri River
(Map on page 51)

Entire River (beginning at Three Forks) except as listed below
- Open entire year.

Toston Dam structure as posted
- Closed entire year.

Toston Dam to Canyon Ferry Reservoir
- Localized spawning areas closed from March 1 through June 15 as posted.
- Catch-and-release for brown trout between 18 and 24 inches.
- Walleye: 20 daily and 40 in possession.

Canyon Ferry Dam to Hauser Reservoir
- Hauser Reservoir fishing regulations apply.
- Posted area just below Canyon Ferry Dam closed entire year.

Hauser Dam to Holter Reservoir
- Waters from Hauser Dam downstream approximately 4.6 miles to American Bar Gulch (T12N, R3W, Section 11) are considered Missouri River for the purpose of fishing regulations.
- Catch-and-release for brown trout.
- Walleye: 5 under 20 inches and 1 over 28 inches. All walleye between 20 and 28 inches must be released.

Hauser Dam structure and adjacent water as posted
- Closed entire year.

Holter Dam, abutment and spillway structures below the dam
- Closed entire year.

Holter Dam to Cascade Bridge
- Combined Trout Limit: 3 rainbow trout, only 1 over 16 inches; 1 brown trout, 22 inch minimum.

Between the bridges at Craig and Sheep Creek
- Open to spearing for whitefish with rubber or spring-propelled spears by persons swimming or submerged.
- Limit: 5 whitefish.

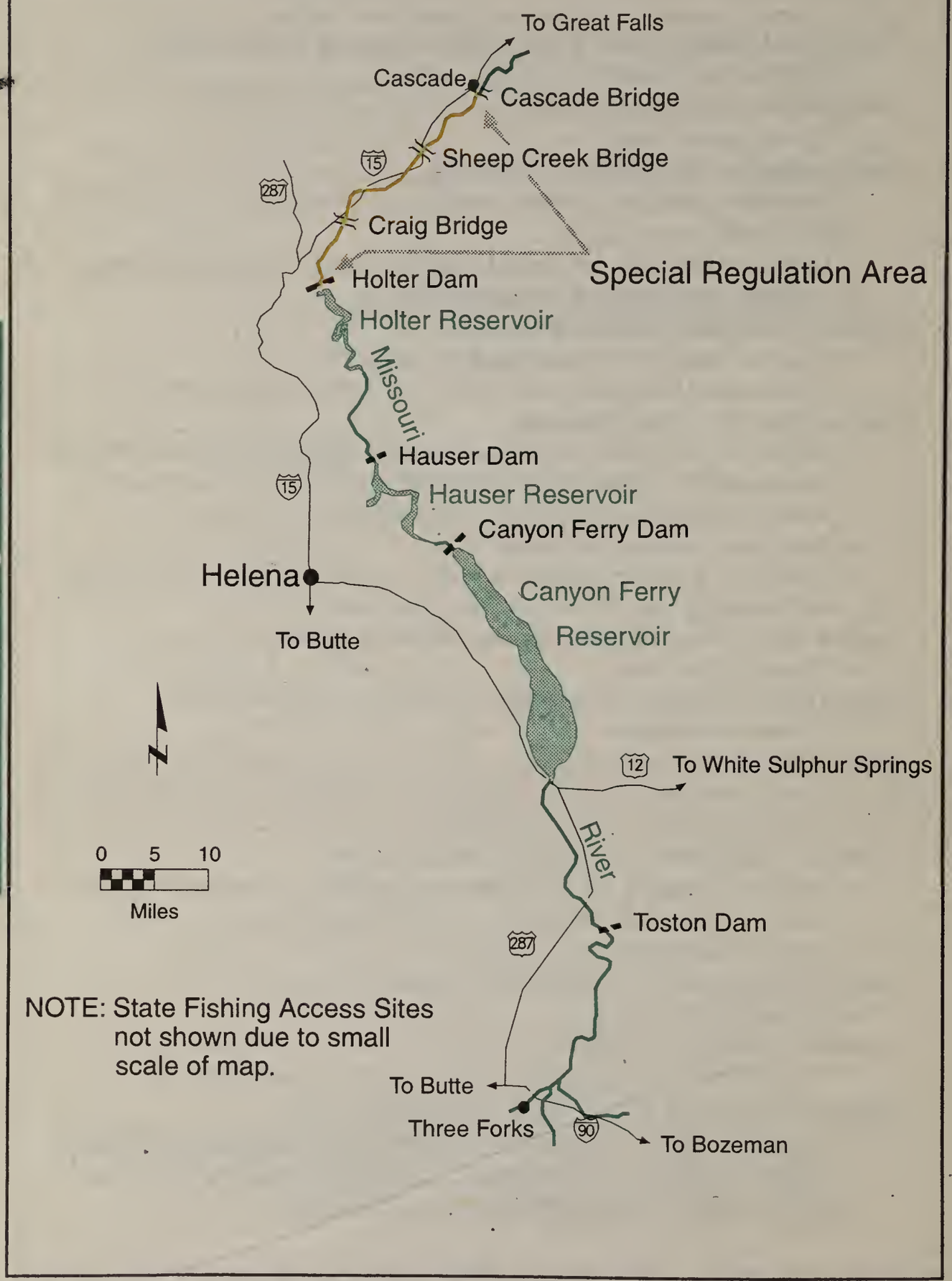
Morony Dam structure and adjacent water as posted
- Closed entire year.

Morony Dam to Fort Benton
- 6 unattended lines (setlines) with up to 6 hooks per line.

Morony Dam to PN Bridge (on State Highway 236)
- Sauger: 1 daily. Sauger and walleye may be dressed and filleted before transport to a permanent residence, but the entire skin must be attached to the fillet for identification.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown , golden , and rainbow trout in rivers and streams, and also cutthroat trout and grayling in lakes.

Missouri River
(Regulations on page 50)



Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown , golden , and rainbow trout in rivers and streams, and also cutthroat trout and grayling in lakes.

North Fork Birch Creek Drainage (near Dupuyer) within National Forest
- Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, none over 12 inches.

North Fork Dupuyer Creek Drainage (near Dupuyer) within National Forest
- Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, none over 12 inches.

North Fork Sun River and its tributaries, upstream from Gibson Reservoir
- Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, only 1 over 12 inches; includes cutthroat trout. (This limit applies upstream from the point where the North and South forks of the Sun River meet, regardless of reservoir level.)

North Fork Teton River Drainage (near Choteau) within the National Forest
- Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, none over 12 inches.

North Willow Creek (near Harrison)
- Open third Saturday in June through November 30 from the Highway 287 Bridge to Harrison Reservoir.

Norwegian Creek (near Harrison)
- Open third Saturday in June through November 30 from the Highway 287 Bridge to Harrison Reservoir.

O'Brien Creek
- Closed entire year above the intake to the Neihart public water supply.

O'Dell Creek (Beaverhead River Drainage)
- Combined Trout Limit: includes cutthroat trout.

Ostle Reservoir (Antelope Butte Lake) in Teton County
- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Otter Lake (Madison County)
- Open third Saturday in June through November 30.
- Combined Trout Limit: 1 rainbow trout daily.

Our Lake (Teton County)
- See Hidden Lake in Teton County.

Piney Creek
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

Pishkun Reservoir
- 6 lines with 2 hooks per line may be used to fish through ice.
- Open for snagging salmon September 1 through December 31, 35 daily and 70 in possession.
- Spearing for northern pike through the ice only.

Poindexter Slough
- Open entire year.
- December 1 to third Saturday in May: catch-and-release only with artificial lures.

Priest Butte Lake
- Open June 15 through September 15 and December 1 through the end of February.

Quake Lake (Madison River Drainage)
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown , golden , and rainbow trout in rivers and streams, and also cutthroat trout and grayling in lakes.

Rat Lake (Gallatin River Drainage)
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily.
- The unnamed tributary to the lake is closed entire year.

Rattlesnake Creek and its tributaries (Beaverhead River Drainage)
- Combined Trout Limit: includes cutthroat trout.
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout on Cat Creek.

Rattlesnake Creek (near Dillon)
- Closed entire year from city water supply intake to a point 1,000 feet upstream as posted.

Red Canyon Creek (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)
- Open June 15 through November 30.

Red Rock Creek (Beaverhead River Drainage)
- Combined Trout Limit: includes cutthroat trout.

Renshaw Lake
- Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily.

Rock Creek (tributary to Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone) and its tributaries.
- Open entire year.
- See West Fork Rock Creek.

Ruby River

Entire River and tributaries
- Catch-and-release for grayling.

Ruby River and its tributaries upstream from Ruby Reservoir
- Combined Trout Limit: includes cutthroat trout.
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout in Cottonwood (near Cottonwood Camp), Geyser, Idaho, Robb, Sweetwater and Whitebear creeks.

Ruby River downstream from Ruby Dam
- Just below Ruby Dam: Closed entire year, that portion of the Ruby River from its confluence with the Ruby Dam outlet channel, upstream to the dam, including the outlet channel.
- Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, only 1 over 15 inches.
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout from December 1 to third Saturday in May with maggots and/or artificial lures only.

Rumbaugh Creek (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)
- Open June 15 through November 30.

Sawtooth Lake (Beaverhead River Drainage)
- Limit: 1 golden trout.

Scott Lake (Beaverhead River Drainage)
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily.

Shields River
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Extended season for whitefish and catch-and release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and artificial lures only.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown , golden , and rainbow trout in rivers and streams, and also cutthroat trout and grayling in lakes.

Silver Creek (near Marysville)

- Catch-and-release from Gold Sil Mine (as posted) to Green Meadow Drive.

Downstream from the I-15 Bridge near Helena

- Open third Saturday in May through Labor Day.

Slough Creek (Yellowstone River Drainage)

- Cutthroat trout: 3 daily, none over 12 inches.

Smith Lake (Madison River Drainage)

- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily.

Smith River

(Map on page 55)

Downstream from confluence of North and South forks

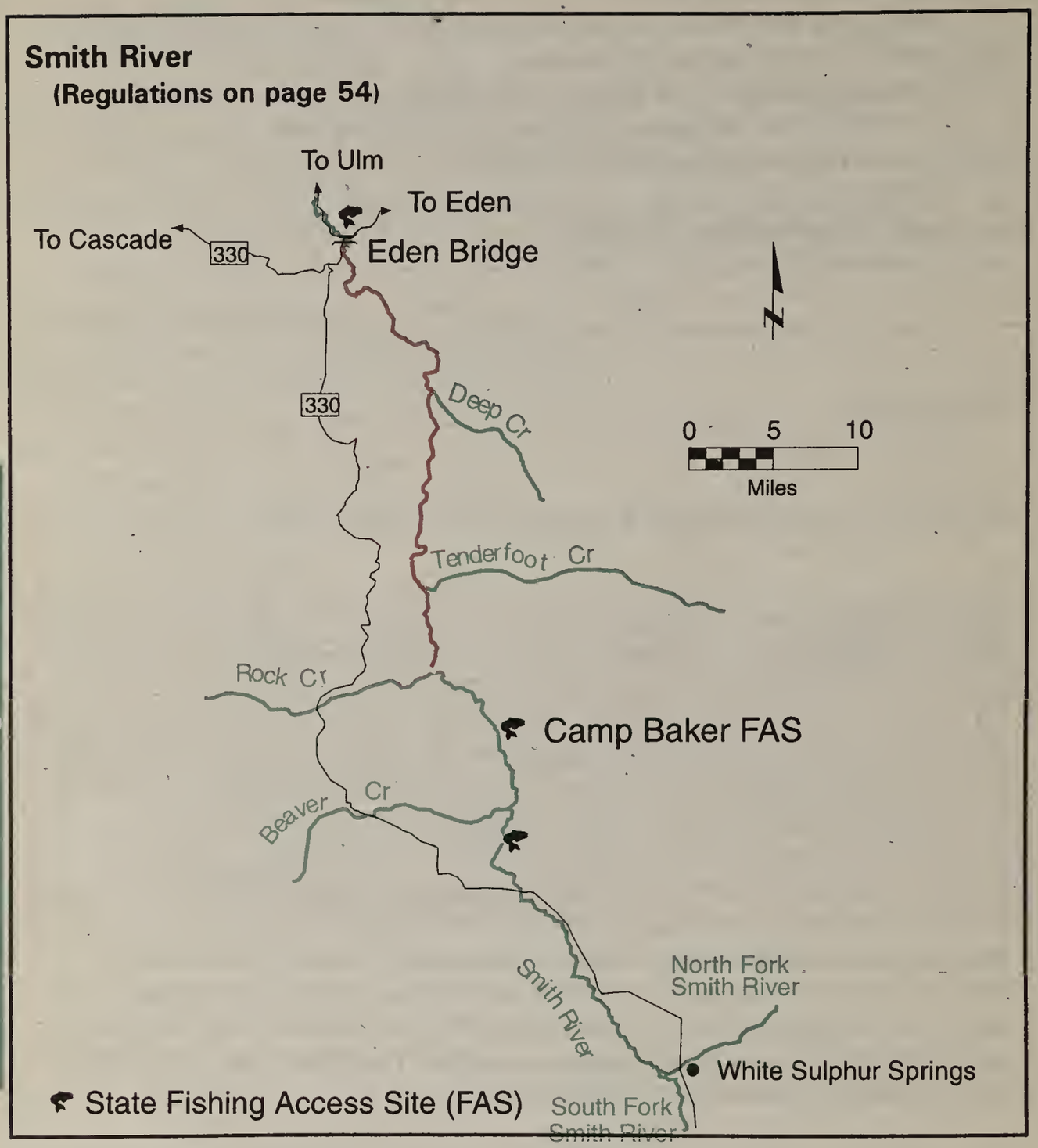
- Open entire year.

...Special Limit Area
From confluence of Rock Creek to Eden (Huntsberger) Bridge

- Artificial lures only.
- Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily under 13 inches and 1 trout over 22 inches. All trout between 13 and 22 inches must be released.
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open from December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots and artificial lures only.
- Children 12 years of age and younger may fish with bait.

Floating on the Smith River between Camp Baker and Eden Bridge is strictly limited. Mandatory registration, floaters fee and other regulations apply. A drawing for launch dates is held in February with remaining launches filled on a first-come basis. Contact the Great Falls FWP office at (406) 454-5840 for more information.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown , golden , and rainbow trout in rivers and streams, and also cutthroat trout and grayling in lakes.



Sock Lake (Sun River Drainage)

- Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily

Soda Butte Creek (Yellowstone River Drainage)

- Cutthroat trout: 3 daily, none over 12 inches.

South Fork Birch Creek Drainage (near Dupuyer) within the National Forest

- Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, none over 12 inches.

South Fork Dupuyer Creek Drainage (near Dupuyer) within the National Forest

- Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, none over 12 inches.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown , golden , and rainbow trout in rivers and streams, and also cutthroat trout and grayling in lakes.

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

South Fork Madison River (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)
- Open June 15 through November 30.

South Fork Sun River and its tributaries
- Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, only 1 over 12 inches; includes cutthroat trout. (This limit applies upstream from the point where the North and South forks of the Sun River meet, regardless of reservoir level.)

South Fork Two Medicine River Drainage, within National Forest
- Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, none over 12 inches.

South Willow Creek (near Harrison)
- Open third Saturday in June through November 30 from the Highway 287 Bridge to Harrison Reservoir.

Split Rock Lake
- 6 lines with 2 hooks per line may be used to fish through ice.
- Spearing for northern pike through the ice only.

Spring Meadow Lake
- Open to fishing with hook and line only.
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily.
- Bass: 1 daily.

Stillwater River and its tributaries
- Open entire year.
- Combined Trout Limit: 2 daily, only 1 over 13 inches.

Sun River
- Open entire year downstream from Gibson Dam.

Sunny Slope Canal downstream from Pishkun Reservoir
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily.
- Catch-and-release for grayling.

Swazee Lake (Sun River Wildlife Management Area)
- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Tahepia Lake (Wise River Drainage)
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily.

Teton River
- Open entire year downstream from the Highway 89 Bridge.

Tiber Reservoir (Lake Elwell)
- Whitefish and cisco must be immediately released upon capture.
- 2 unattended lines (setlines) with up to 2 hooks per line may be used during the ice free period.
- 6 lines attended or unattended, with up to 6 hooks per line may be used through the ice.
- Spearing for nongame fish, northern pike, walleye, sauger and burbot (ling) through the ice and by persons swimming or submerged.

Toston Dam structure as posted
- Closed entire year.

Trail Creek and its tributaries (Beaverhead River Drainage) near Horse Prairie
- Combined Trout Limit: includes cutthroat trout.
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout on Bear Creek.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown , golden , and rainbow trout in rivers and streams, and also cutthroat trout and grayling in lakes.

Trapper Creek (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)
- Open June 15 through November 30.

Tunnel Lake (Teton County)
- Combined Trout Limit: includes 1 grayling.

Twin Lakes (Upper Big Hole River Drainage)
- Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily.
- Lake trout: catch and release.

Vigilante Pond (near Virginia City)
- Open to fishing only for persons 12 years of age and younger.

Wade Lake (Madison County)
- Spawning channel and channel inlet closed as posted.
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily.

Warm Springs Creek (near Lewistown)
- Open entire year.
- Combined Trout Limit: 10 daily.

Warm Springs Creek (Upper Missouri River tributary, near Townsend)
- Open June 15 through September 30.

Watkins Creek (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)
- Open June 15 through November 30.

Waukena Lake (Big Hole River Drainage)
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily.

West Boulder River

See Boulder River near Big Timber.

West Fork Hyalite Creek
- Open third Saturday in July through November 30.

West Fork Madison River
- Catch-and-release for rainbow trout.

West Fork Rock Creek
- Closed entire year from Red Lodge water intake to 1,000 feet upstream.

West Fork Stillwater River

See Stillwater River.

West Rosebud Creek

See Stillwater River.

Widow's Pool (Beaverhead County)

See Culver Pond.

Willow Creek and its tributaries (Meagher County)
- Closed entire year from White Sulphur Springs public water intake to its source.

Willow Creek Reservoir (Madison County)

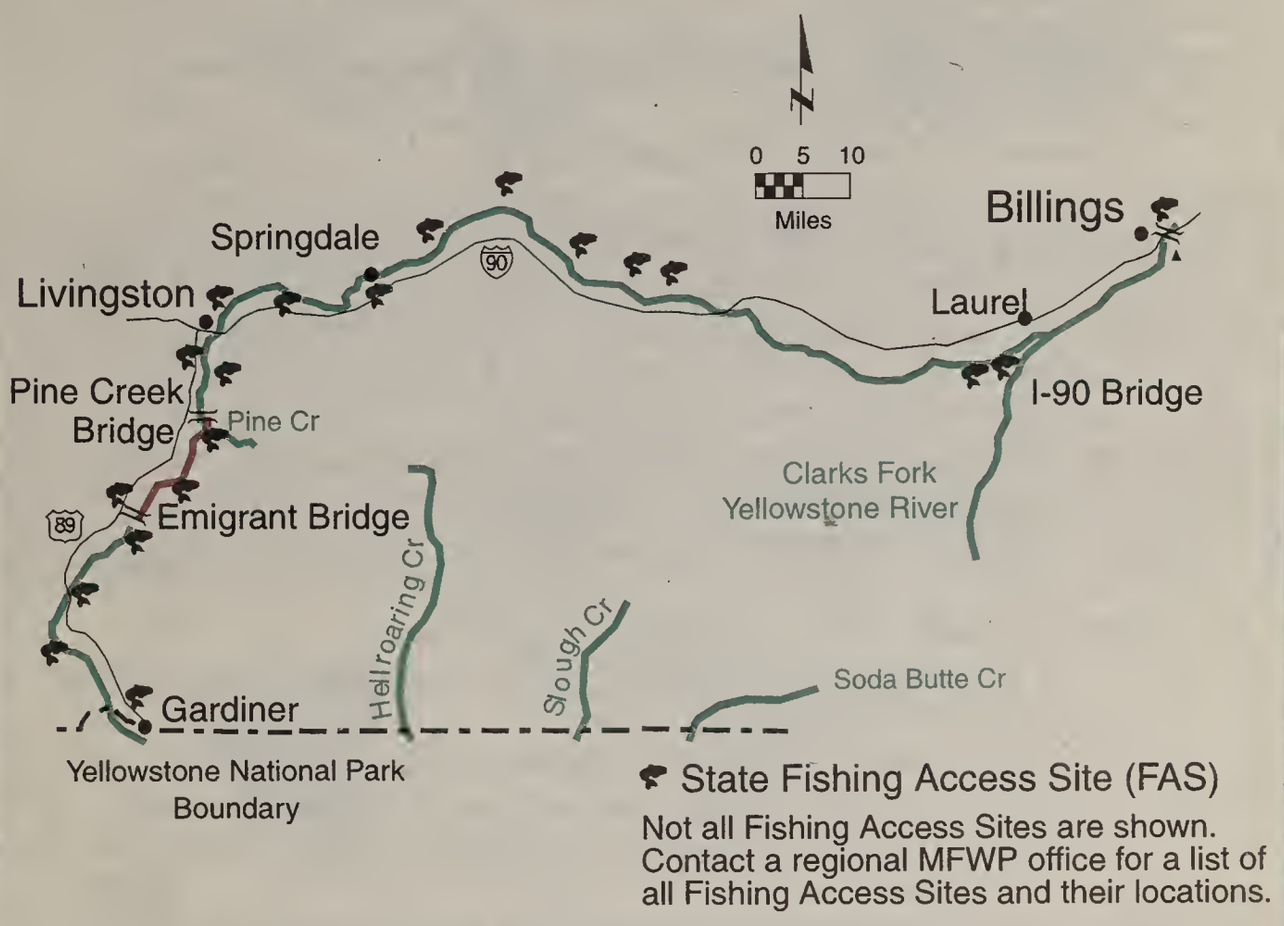
See Harrison Reservoir.

Willow Springs Creek (tributary to the Jefferson River)
- Catch-and-release for rainbow trout.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown , golden , and rainbow trout in rivers and streams, and also cutthroat trout and grayling in lakes.

Yellowstone River

(Regulations on page 59)



Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown , golden , and rainbow trout in rivers and streams, and also cutthroat trout and grayling in lakes.

Yellowstone River
(Map on page 58)

Mainstem Yellowstone River

Yellowstone National Park boundary to I-90 Bridge at Billings

- Open entire year.
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

Emigrant Bridge to Pine Creek Bridge

- Combined Trout Limit: 5 brown and rainbow trout, 4 under 13 inches and 1 over 22 inches. All brown and rainbow trout between 13 and 22 inches must be released.
- Artificial lures only.
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout from December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots and/or artificial lures only.

Mouth of Clarks Fork to I-90 Bridge at Billings

- 6 attended or unattended lines (setlines) with up to 6 hooks per line allowed entire year.
- Live fish (except sculpins, yellow perch, carp, goldfish, sunfish, bullheads and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait (including feeder streams and ditches).

Tributaries to the Yellowstone River that flow into Yellowstone National Park including the Hellroaring Creek, Slough Creek, Buffalo Creek and Soda Butte Creek Drainages.

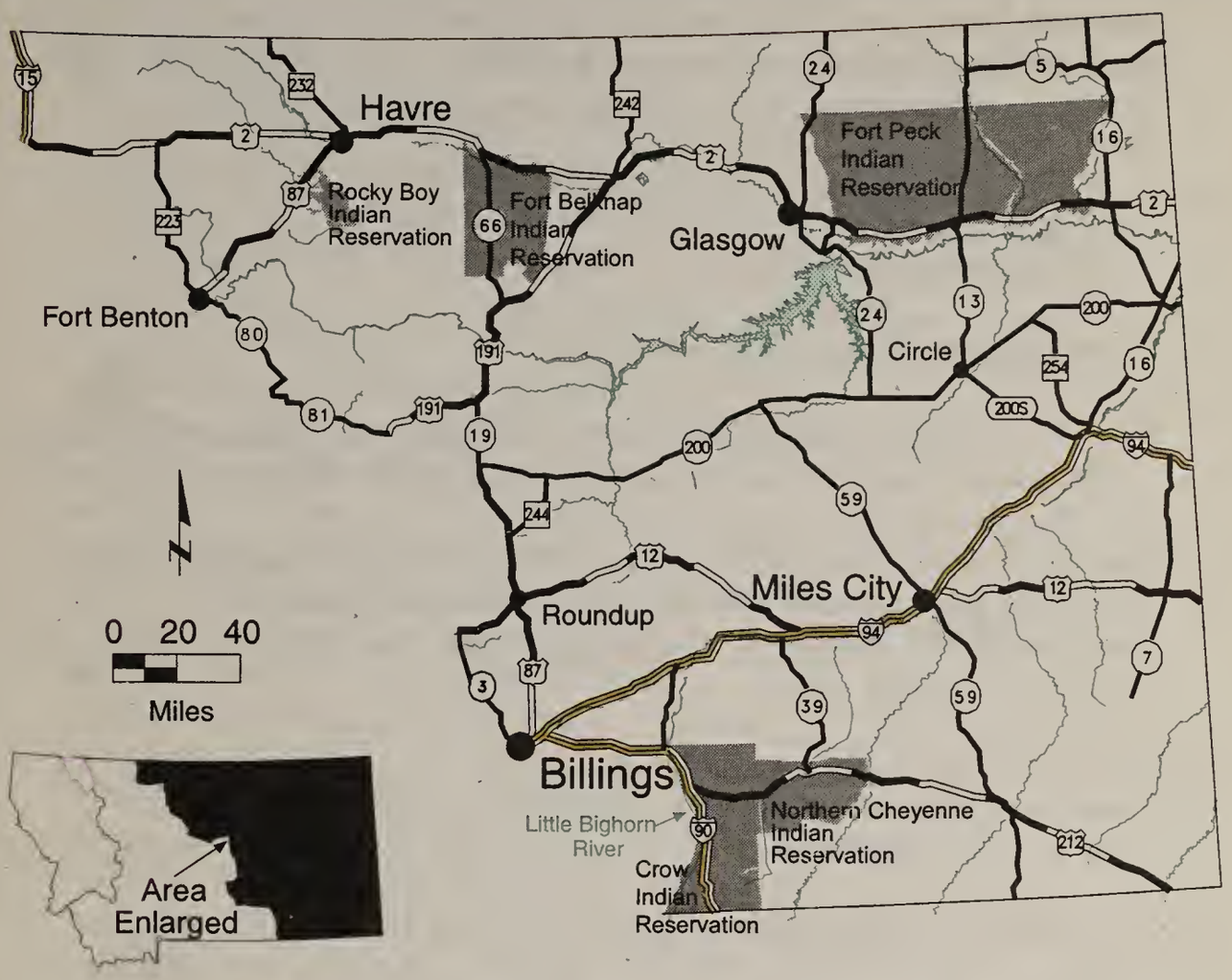
- Cutthroat Trout Limit: 3, none over 12 inches.

All tributaries to the Yellowstone River Drainage (including the Shields River and its tributaries) between the Yellowstone National Park boundary and Springdale (approximately 18 miles east of Livingston).

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown , golden , and rainbow trout in rivers and streams, and also cutthroat trout and grayling in lakes.

EASTERN FISHING DISTRICT



Areas excluded from fishing districts.
Additional regulations may apply.
Other federal or tribal permits may be required.

The Eastern Fishing District includes all waters lying east of the Central Fishing District. For the boundary description, see Central Fishing District, page 33.

Note: Roadways that are used as boundaries between the Central and Eastern Fishing Districts are interpreted to be in the Central Fishing District.

For additional information regarding the boundaries of this district, please call the following regional headquarters:

Billings . . . . . (406) 247-2940
Glasgow . . . . . (406) 228-3700
Great Falls . . . . . (406) 454-5840
Havre Area Resource Office . . . . (406) 265-6177
Lewistown Area Office . . . . . (406) 538-4658
Miles City . . . . . (406) 232-0900
TTY . . . . . (406) 444-1200
(Telephone device for the deaf)

EASTERN FISHING DISTRICT

IMPORTANT EASTERN DISTRICT REGULATION CHANGES

- Know the Law and Avoid Violations

- Following are some of the waters with important changes that were made from the 1998-1999 fishing regulations. Please read the 2000-2001 regulations thoroughly to avoid unintentional violations.

  Ft Peck Reservoir
  Marias River
  Missouri River
  Nelson Reservoir
  Tongue River Reservoir

- A $5 Warm Water Game Fish Stamp is required to possess fish caught in designated waters. Check waters listed under "Warm Water Game Fish Stamp."
- Spearing - In all waters open to fishing, northern pike may be taken with spears by persons swimming or submerged, page 63
- There are some changes in the places where live nongame fish may be used as bait, page 66.

Standard Fishing Seasons

All waters open entire year. See Eastern Fishing District Special Regulations for exceptions.

Standard Fishing Regulations

A valid fishing license is required for all types of fishing.

Warm Water Game Fish Stamp

The 1999 Montana Legislature passed a bill to require the purchase of a warm water game fish stamp. See page 2 for details regarding this new stamp. The warm water game fish stamp is required to possess warm water fish on the following waters in the Eastern Fishing District:

Anita Reservoir, Yellowstone County
Bailey Reservoir, Hill County
Baker Lake, Fallon County
Bearpaw Lake, Hill County
Beaver Creek, Wibaux County
Beaver Creek Reservoir, Hill County
Box Elder Creek Reservoir, Sheridan County
Castle Rock Lake, Rosebud County
Catfish Reservoir, Fergus County
Conter's Bass Pond, Yellowstone County
Cow Creek Reservoir, Blaine County
Dry Fork Reservoir, Blaine County
Engdahl Cottonwood Reservoir, Garfield County
Ester Lake, Phillips County

(continued on next page)

EASTERN FISHING DISTRICT

The warm water game fish stamp is required to possess warm water fish on the following waters in the Eastern Fishing District:

Faber Reservoir, Blaine County
Fort Peck Lake,
Fresno Reservoir, Hill County
Gartside Lake, Richland County
Haughian Res. (Dan Haughian Res.), Custer County
Hollands Reservoir, Fergus County
Homestead Reservoir, Prairie County
Hopalong Reservoir, Fergus County
Iliad Reservoir, Chouteau County
Johnson Dam, Dawson County
Lake Elmo, Yellowstone County
Little Warm Reservoir Phillips County
Maier Reservoir, Fallon County
Nelson Reservoir, Phillips County
Payola Reservoir, Petroleum County
Petrolia Reservoir, Petroleum County
Salmo Reservoir, Blaine County
Schlesinger Reservoir #1, Rosebud County
Schoonover Reservoir #1, Chouteau County
Silvan Pond, Chouteau County
Silvertip Reservoir, Prairie County
South Fork Dry Blood Reservoir, Petroleum County
South Sandstone Reservoir, Fallon County
Talcott Pond, Carter County
Tongue River Reservoir, Big Horn County
Trumbo Pond, Garfield County
Upper Wolf Coulee Reservoir, Fergus County

Hook and Line Limits

- Two attended lines with up to 2 hooks per line may be used on lakes and reservoirs in the Eastern Fishing District.

- All streams in the Little Missouri, Milk, Missouri, Musselshell and Yellowstone drainages are open entire year to 6 attended or unattended lines (setlines) with up to 6 hooks per line (see exceptions, Eastern Fishing District Special Regulations and Missouri River (below Fort Peck Dam)).

- Lines shall not be attached to jugs or other floating devices.

- Unattended lines (setlines) must be clearly identified with owner's complete name and address.

- Anglers may use up to 6 lines, attended or unattended, with up to 6 hooks per line, through the ice, in all lakes and reservoirs, except as specified under the Special Regulations for this district.

Bow and Arrow

All waters open to angling are open to taking paddlefish and nongame fish by bow and arrow. Crossbows, however, are illegal.

Snagging

All waters open to angling are open to snagging paddlefish. Snagging chinook salmon, however, is allowed on Fort Peck Reservoir only from October 1 through November 30. Likewise, snagging nongame fish is allowed on all open waters, except the Missouri River and portions of the Yellowstone River, as specified under the district Special Regulations.

Spearing

In all waters open to fishing, nongame fish, northern pike and burbot (ling) may be taken with rubber or spring-propelled spears by persons swimming or submerged.

Spears may be used through the ice for northern pike, walleye, sauger, burbot (ling), and nongame fish.

EASTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Standard Daily and Possession Limits - includes all tables below.

- Each angler may take all of the limits listed in the chart, unless noted in the Special Regulations.
- Anglers who move from one fishing water to another may possess only the limit of fish allowed for the water on which they are currently fishing.
- Irrigation Canals and Ditches - the same daily and possession limits apply as for rivers and streams.

Rivers & Streams

Species	Daily and in possession	Exceptions
Combined Trout Limit (Includes the following in any combination): **Grayling** **Salmon** **All trout except lake trout**	10 daily and in possession	

Rivers, Lakes & Streams

Species	Daily and in possession	Exceptions
Bass	5	
Burbot (ling)	10	
Catfish	20	
Crappie	15 daily and 30 in possession	
Lake trout	3	
Northern pike	10	
Pallid sturgeon		It is unlawful to take or possess a pallid sturgeon.
Sauger/Walleye	5 daily and 10 in possession	
Shovelnose sturgeon	5	40 inch maximum size.
Tiger muskellunge	1	30 inch minimum size.
Whitefish	No Limit	

EASTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Lakes

Species	Daily and in possession	Exceptions
Combined Trout Limit (Includes the following in any combination): **Grayling** **Salmon** **All trout except lake trout**	5 daily and in possession	

Paddlefish Season Limit:
One paddlefish for Yellowstone River and Missouri River downstream from Fort Peck Dam. Tag is required. Two paddlefish limit for Missouri River upstream of Fort Peck Dam. Tags are required. Not to exceed 2 paddlefish per season.

Transporting Live Fish

It is unlawful to possess or transport live fish away from the body of water in which the fish were taken **except** for: 1) transportation of fish for valid commercial purposes; 2) for use as live bait subject to any further restrictions imposed by the FWP Commission; and 3) within the boundaries of the Eastern Fishing District.

Hoop Nets

- The use of hoop nets is permitted in certain areas of the Eastern Fishing District.
- The use of hoop nets is limited to licensed resident anglers.
- A permit is required. Permit applications and rules are available at FWP offices in Billings, Glasgow, and Miles City.

Bait (Live)

- Live fish may not be imported into or exported from the State of Montana except by permit issued by FWP.
- Live nongame bait fish (except sculpins, carp, goldfish, all species in the sunfish family and bullhead catfish family, yellow perch, and rainbow smelt) may be used in all streams and rivers in the Eastern Fishing District except:
  - Milk River and its tributaries upstream from Fresno Dam.
  - Streams south of Highway 2 (which originate in the Bears Paw Mountains) and Beaver Creek and Big Sandy Creek upstream from the Highway 87 Bridge.
- Live nongame fish (except sculpins, carp, goldfish, sunfish, bullheads (catfish family), yellow perch, and rainbow smelt) may be used for bait only in the following ponds, lakes, reservoirs and impoundments:
  Bailey Reservoir, Hill County
  Bainville Railroad Ponds, Roosevelt County

EASTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Baker Lake, Fallon County
Beaver Creek Reservoir, Hill County
Box Elder Reservoir, Sheridan County
Buxbaum West Reservoir, Richland County
Castle Rock Lake, Rosebud County
Cole Ponds, Phillips County
Doug Gardner #2 Reservoir, Carter County
Dredge Cut Trout Pond, Valley County
Dry Fork Reservoir (Schwarz), Blaine County
Engstrom Reservoir, Sheridan County
Ester Reservoir, Phillips County
Flat Lake, McCone County
Fort Peck Reservoir
Frenchman Reservoir, Phillips County
Gartside Reservoir, Richland County
Hedstrom Reservoir, McCone County
Johnson Reservoir, Dawson County
Killenbeck Reservoir, Daniels County
Kuester Reservoir, Richland County
Lame Steer Reservoir, Wibaux County
Lee (Sam) Reservoir, Dawson County
Lindsay Reservoir, Dawson County
Little Warm Reservoir, Phillips County
Lyons Reservoir, Blaine County
McChesney Reservoir, Phillips County
Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Sheridan County
Milk River and its impoundments downstream of Fresno Dam
Nelson Reservoir, Phillips County
Petrolia Reservoir, Petroleum County
Raymond Reservoir, Sheridan County
Schlesinger Perch Pond, Rosebud County
South Sandstone Reservoir, Fallon County
Spotted Eagle Pond, Custer County
Talcott Pond, Carter County
Tongue River Reservoir, Big Horn County
Valley Reservoir, Valley County
Whiteside Reservoir, Garfield County
Whitetail Reservoir, Daniels

Boat and Motor Restrictions

The use of boats and motors may be restricted on some waters within this fishing district. Please refer to the boat and motor restrictions described on pages 74-88. A complete, updated, copy of the Montana Boating Laws may be obtained by contacting any FWP office or any FWP license agent.

EASTERN FISHING DISTRICT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Check below for the body of water you intend to fish. If the body of water is not found in the listing of Special Regulations, all of the standard seasons, daily/possession limits, and statewide regulations apply (see pages 4-11).

For waters listed under the Special Regulations, the possession limit is the same as the daily limit, unless otherwise stated.

Beaver Creek (Hill County)
Upstream from Highway 87 Bridge (Bears Paw Mountains)
- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Beaver Creek Reservoir
- No limit on northern pike.

Big Sandy Creek
Upstream from Highway 87 Bridge (Bears Paw Mountains)
- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Clear Creek
South of Highway 2 (Bears Paw Mountains)
- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Cow Creek (Bears Paw Mountains)
- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Eagle Creek (Bears Paw Mountains)
- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Ester Reservoir
- 2 unattended lines (setlines) with up to 2 hooks per line may be used during the ice free period.

Fort Peck Dredge Cuts
See the Missouri River.
- 2 unattended lines (setlines) with up to 2 hooks per line may be used during the ice free period.

Ft Peck Reservoir (Fort Peck Dam to Beauchamp Creek and CMR Trail 837)
- Open entire year for walleye, northern pike, burbot and nongame fish to spearing with rubber or spring-propelled spears by persons swimming or submerged.
- 2 unattended lines (setlines) with up to 2 hooks per line may be used during the ice free period.

Fresno Reservoir (Hill County)
- No limit on northern pike.
- 2 unattended lines (setlines) with up to 2 hooks per line may be used during the ice free period.

Little Box Elder Creek
South of Highway 2 (Bears Paw Mountains)
- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified.. Combined Trout Limit includes all trout except lake trout, grayling and salmon.

Marias River

- Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily, only 1 over 18 inches.
- Whitefish: 35 daily.
- Whitefish and cisco must be released immediately or killed upon capture.
- Sauger: 1 daily. Sauger and walleye may be dressed and filleted before transport to a permanent residence, but the entire skin must be attached to the fillet for identification.

Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge (Sheridan County)

- All lakes are open to 6 unattended lines (setlines) with up to 6 hooks per line.

Medicine Lake

- Open November 15 through September 15.

Gaffney Lake and Lake 10

- Open August 15 through March 31.

Lake 12

- Open November 15 through March 31.

Missouri River

Fort Benton to PN Bridge (Highway 236)

- Sauger: 1 daily. Sauger and walleye may be dressed and filleted before transport to a permanent residence, but the entire skin must be attached to the fillet for identification.

Upstream from Fort Peck Dam - Paddlefish Regulations

- Regulations for this body of water are those listed under paddlefish regulations, page 70.
- open entire year.

From Fort Peck Dam to mouth of the Milk River (includes Dredge Cuts)

- Combined Trout Limit: 2 rainbow trout.
- Open entire year for up to 2 unattended lines with no more than 2 hooks per line.

Downstream from outlet tunnels of Fort Peck Dam as posted

- Closed entire year.

Downstream from Fort Peck Dam near Duck Island as posted

- Closed March 1 through July 31 to fishing and wading.

Downstream from Fort Peck Dam – Paddlefish Regulations

- Regulations for this body of water are those listed under paddlefish regulations, pages 70-71.
- open entire year or until closed by the FWP Commission.

Nelson Reservoir (Phillips County)

- Open entire year for walleye, northern pike, burbot and nongame fish to spearing with rubber or spring-propelled spears by persons swimming or submerged.
- Northern pike: no limit.
- 2 unattended lines (setlines) with up to 2 hooks per line may be used during the ice free period.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified.. Combined Trout Limit includes all trout except lake trout, grayling and salmon.

Powder River and its tributaries

- Open entire year to taking catfish by bow and arrow.

Ross Reservoir (Blaine County)

- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Snake Creek (Bears Paw Mountains)

- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Tongue River Reservoir

- Open entire year for walleye, northern pike, burbot and nongame fish to spearing with rubber or spring-propelled spears by persons swimming or submerged.
- Up to 6 lines with 6 hooks per line may be used to fish through ice, but the angler must be in the vicinity and within visual contact of the line(s) or rod(s) at all times.

Tongue River

12-Mile Dam Fishing Access Site (T&Y Dam)

- Open entire year for up to 2 lines with no more than 2 hooks per line.

Wind Creek (Blaine County)

- Closed entire year from Clear Creek road crossing to Ross Reservoir Dam.

Yellowstone River

Intake Fishing Access Site

- Open entire year for up to 2 lines with no more than 2 hooks per line.

Downstream from mouth of Cottonwood Creek (4 miles downstream from Intake Diversion Dam)

- Open May 1 through June 30 to snagging of paddlefish or as posted.
- Snagging of nongame fish is prohibited.

From mouth of Bighorn River to mouth of Cottonwood Creek

- Open May 15 through June 30 to snagging of paddlefish or as posted.
- Snagging of nongame fish is prohibited.

From Intake Diversion Dam to about 1/4 mile downstream as posted

- Closed May 15 through June 30 to fishing or snagging from boats.

Paddlefish Regulations

- Regulations for this body of water are those listed under paddlefish regulations, pages 70-71.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified.. Combined Trout Limit includes all trout except lake trout, grayling and salmon.

Paddlefish Regulations

General regulations for ALL paddlefish areas. See below for additional regulations on specific waters.

- All paddlefish anglers, regardless of age, must purchase the proper prerequisite conservation license, fishing license and paddlefish tags. All licenses must be in the angler's immediate possession while fishing.
- Each paddlefish angler must cast for, hook and reel in his or her own paddlefish. It is unlawful for another person to do so.
- Anglers must immediately tag paddlefish with their own tag.
- Any tag locked shut prior to attachment to a paddlefish shall be void.
- Any altered or modified tag shall be void.
- It is unlawful to possess an untagged paddlefish or a part of one.
- If anglers cut up a paddlefish, they must keep the part of the back and dorsal fin (back fin) where the tag is attached and sealed to the fish. Tags must remain with processed fish until consumption.

Missouri River (upstream from Fort Peck Dam)
(Map on page 72)

- Open entire year to paddlefish harvest.
- Limit: 2 paddlefish per season.
- Anglers must either tag or release a paddlefish immediately when they catch it.
- Anglers must have a valid paddlefish tag to snag for paddlefish. Once the paddlefish tag(s) has been validated, anglers may not snag for paddlefish.
- It is illegal to snag for nongame fish from Morony Dam downstream to the North Dakota border.

continued

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified.. Combined Trout Limit includes all trout except lake trout, grayling and salmon.

Paddlefish Regulations - continued

Yellowstone River and Missouri River (downstream of Fort Peck Dam)
(Map on page 73)

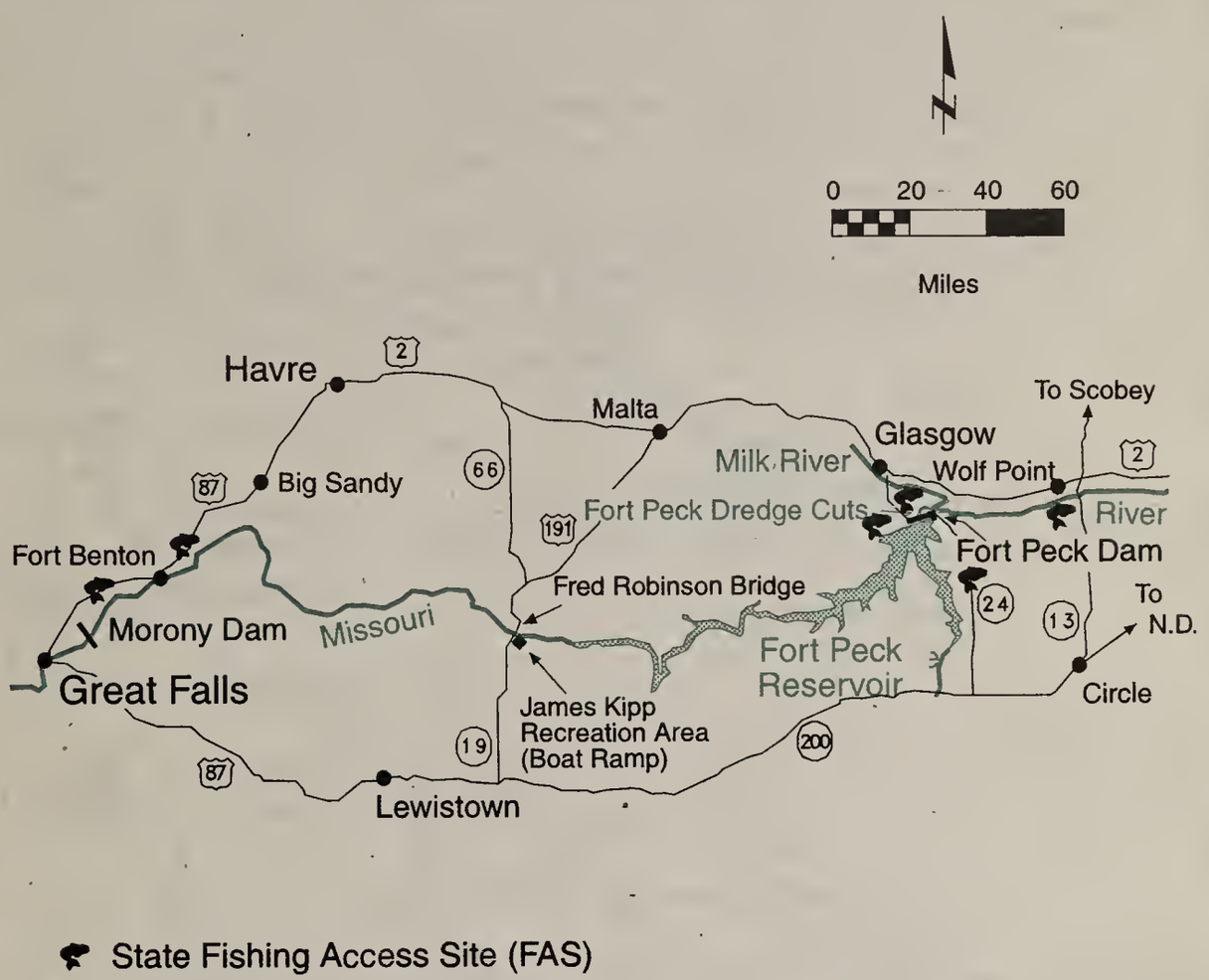
- The paddlefish fishery is managed under a harvest target in conjunction with North Dakota. Montana has set regulations so that annual harvest will not exceed 1500 fish. FWP may close the season within 48 hour notice in any year if it appears that the harvest target may otherwise be significantly exceeded.
- Call the Miles City FWP regional office at 406-232-0900 for current information on harvest status.
- 1 paddlefish per season.
- Paddlefish may be harvested using hook and line and/or bow and arrow in the Fort Peck Dredge Cuts.
- It is illegal to snag for nongame fish downstream from the mouth of the Bighorn River May 1 through June 30.
- It is illegal to snag for nongame fish from Morony Dam downstream to the North Dakota border.
- It is unlawful to release paddlefish unless accomplished in accordance with specific catch-and-release regulations listed below.
- Once a paddlefish tag has been validated, anglers may not snag for paddlefish. Anglers may catch-and-release paddlefish only in the Yellowstone River in accordance with specific catch-and-release regulations listed below.

For the Yellowstone River only. Catch-and-Release Regulations .

- Anglers must show evidence of current year paddlefish tag.
- All paddlefish caught at the Intake Dam Fishing Access Site on Wednesdays and Sundays between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m. (Mountain Daylight Time) must be released.
- Use of gaffs is prohibited.

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified.. Combined Trout Limit includes all trout except lake trout, grayling and salmon.

Missouri River
(upstream from Fort Peck Dam)
(Regulations on page 70)



State Fishing Access Site (FAS)

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified.. Combined Trout Limit includes all trout except lake trout, grayling and salmon.

Yellowstone River and the Missouri River (downstream of Fort Peck Dam)
(Regulations on pages 70-71)

Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified.. Combined Trout Limit includes all trout except lake trout, grayling and salmon.

BOAT AND MOTOR RESTRICTIONS

Boating Laws

The following is a list of boating restrictions and water restrictions pertaining to fishing in Montana taken from the Administrative Rules of Montana. Changes in the rules subsequent to January 1, 2000 are not included in this pamphlet. Additional regulations for boat registration/licensing, equipment requirements, general operation and mooring requirements, noise restrictions, water-skiing, operation of sailboards, etc. are available from MFWP or your local boating store. A temporary permit may be required by a county for operation of a boat. Check with your local county office for requirements.

A complete, updated, copy of the Montana Boating Laws is available from any FWP office or by calling 406-444-2535. Additional restrictions may be posted at access points to specific waters.

General Restrictions

- Do not anchor a vessel for fishing or pleasure purposes on any body of water in such a way as to obstruct a passageway ordinarily used by other vessels.
- Do not operate a boat within:
    - 20 feet of a designated swimming area marked by white and orange buoys.
    - 50 feet of a swimmer, except for boats towing water skiers.
    - 75 feet of an angler or a waterfowl hunter unless it is unavoidable. If unavoidable, travel at no wake speed or at a minimum speed necessary to maintain upstream progress.
    - 200 feet of a diver (see page 75).
- Upland game birds, furbearers and game animals may not be pursued, taken or killed from a powerboat or sailboat or any floating device in tow.
- All passengers under the age of 12 must wear a PFD at all times if the boat is less than 26 feet. Wearable, U.S. Coast Guard approved PFDs must be available for each occupant of any boat. Boats longer than 16 feet (except canoes and kayaks) must also have a throwable type IV PFD on board.
- It is unlawful to operate or be in actual physical control of a vessel while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- All boats must carry equipment as required by the Montana Boating Laws.

BOAT AND MOTOR RESTRICTIONS

BOATERS: This flag means there are scuba divers in the area.

Montana law requires that boats stay at least 200 feet away from a **DIVER DOWN** flag.

Violators may be subject to a fine of $500 or 6 months imprisonment, or both.
MCA 23-2-525

Motorboat Operator Requirements

- Requirements for persons operating personal watercraft or a motor boat with a motor greater than 10 horsepower.

Age	Requirement
0-12	Must be accompanied by adult
13-14	Accompanied by adult or possess motorboat operator certificate*
15 & over	No requirements

*To obtain a certificate a person must complete a boating course approved by FWP. Home-study courses are available from any FWP office.

BOAT AND MOTOR RESTRICTIONS

Local and Federal Regulations

In addition to state boating laws, local government and federal agency regulations may apply to boating activities in some areas. Contact the county sheriff's office or the federal agency for the area where you will be boating to find out if any additional regulations are in effect.

Boat and Motor Restrictions

- The following closures and public use restrictions are in effect for reasons of public health, safety or protection of property. Only authorized exceptions, such as search and rescue craft are exempt. Some waterways have multiple restrictions that apply, so be sure to check all of the following sections for the body of water you plan to use.
- The following closures and restrictions are accurate as of January 1, 2000. Changes made in the ARM rules subsequently will be posted on individual waters or may be obtained from any FWP office.

Boat and Motor Restrictions

Body of Water	County	Fishing District	Manually Powered or Electric Motors Only	Closed to motorboats over 10 HP	Closed to all Motorboats	No-Wake Speed	Description & Exceptions
All rivers & streams in the following Counties:							
* Beaverhead	Beaverhead	Central		X			See exception on Big Hole River
* Broadwater	Broadwater	Central		X			**Exception:** Missouri River down river from Broadwater-Gallatin county line.
* Gallatin	Gallatin	Central		X			**Exception:** Missouri River down river from Headwaters State Park.
* Jefferson	Jefferson	Central		X			
* Madison	Madison	Central		X			
* Park	Park	Central		X			**Exception:** Yellowstone River down river from Hwy 89 Bridge, near mouth of Shields River
* Silver Bow	Silver Bow	Western & Central		X			
Alva Lake	Missoula	Western					Boats pulling water skiers will travel in a counterclockwise direction.
Arapooish Pond	Big Horn	Central			X		

Body of Water	County	Fishing District	Manually Powered or Electric Motors Only	Closed to motorboats over 10 HP	Closed to all Motorboats	No-Wake Speed	Description & Exceptions
Banana Lake	Lincoln	Western				X	Thompson Chain of Lakes Area
Bearmouth Rest Area Pond	Granite	Western			X		
Bearpaw Lake	Hill	Eastern			X		
Beaver Creek Reservoir	Hill	Eastern		X		X	
Beaver Lake (near Whitefish)	Flathead	Western				X	5 a.m. through 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. through 11 p.m. each day
Beavertail Pond	Missoula	Western	X				
Big Hole River	Silver Bow, Madison, Deer Lodge, Beaverhead	Central			X		
Bighorn River	**Big Horn**	**Central**			X		**From Afterbay Dam to the Bighorn FAS**

Body of Water	County	Fishing District	Manually Powered or Electric Motors Only	Closed to motorboats over 10 HP	Closed to all Motorboats	No-Wake Speed	Description & Exceptions
Bitterroot River	**Missoula Ravalli**	**Western**			**X**		**From its headwaters to its confluence with the Clark Fork River. Exception: (1) Any motorized craft may be used from May 1 through June 30 on the Bitterroot River from the Florence Bridge in Ravalli County downstream to the Clark Fork River. (2)Motorized craft of 15 horsepower or less may operate anywhere on the Bitterroot River from October 1 through January 31.**
Blackfoot River and tributaries	Lewis & Clark Missoula Powell	Western			**X**		From their headwaters to Stimson Lumber Mill Dam at Bonner.
Blackfoot River	Missoula	Western				**X**	Downstream from the Stimson Lumber Company chainlink fence, as posted, to and including the Miltown Reservoir then upstream on the Clark Fork River to the old Milwaukee Railroad bridge pilings
Blanchard Lake	Missoula	Western		**X**			On Clearwater River
Bootjack Lake	Lincoln	Western				**X**	Thompson Chain of Lakes
Bozeman Ponds	Gallatin	Central			**X**		
Branum Pond	Custer	Western			**X**		
Browns Lake	Powell	Western					Closed to all boats from April 1 to July 15, that portion of lake as marked by barrel booms.

Body of Water	County	Fishing District	Manually Powered or Electric Motors Only	Closed to motorboats over 10 HP	Closed to all Motorboats	No-Wake Speed	Description & Exceptions
Cad Lake	Lincoln	Western				X	Thompson Chain of Lakes Area
Canyon Ferry Reservoir	Broadwater Lewis & Clark	Central				X	White Earth and Goose Bay; within 300 feet of dock; as buoyed; Yacht Basin, Cave Bay, Little Hellgate, Magpie Bay and Carp Bay within 300 feet of dock or as buoyed and from Canyon Ferry Dam to Riverside boat ramp
Carpenter Lake	Lincoln	Western		X			
Carter Ponds (Upper & Lower)	Fergus	Central				X	
Castle Rock Reservoir	Rosebud	Eastern	X				
Cibid Lake	Lincoln	Western				X	Thompson Chain of Lakes Area
Clark Fork River	Mineral	Westerm			X		From St. John's fishing access site to the mouth of Fish Creek (also known as the Alberton Gorge Whitewater section)
Clark Fork River	Missoula	Western			X		From the north side of the Interstate Bridge nearest East Missoula to the FWP fishing access site and boat ramp located off Spurgin Road and Kelly Island, from July 1 through September 30.

Body of Water	County	Fishing District	Manually Powered or Electric Motors Only	Closed to motorboats over 10 HP	Closed to all Motorboats	No-Wake Speed	Description & Exceptions
Clark Fork River and tributaries	Deer Lodge Granite Missoula Powell	Western			X		From their headwaters to the Milwaukee Bridge abutments on Milltown Reservoir.
Clearwater Lake	Missoula	Western	X				
Clearwater River	Missoula	Western				X	From the outlet of Seeley lake to the first bridge downstream from Camp Paxson swim dock.
Clearwater River	Missoula	Western				X	From Boy Scout Road Bridge north of Seeley Lake to the mouth of Clearwater River at the north end of Seeley Lake
Colt Lake	Missoula	Western	X				
Cooney Reservoir	Carbon	Central				X	All of Willow Creek arm as buoyed. North Shore and Marshall Cover within 300 feet of dock, as buoyed. Boats pulling water skiers will travel in a counterclockwise direction.
Cottonwood Lake	Missoula	Western	X				
Crystal Lake	Fergus	Central	X				
East Gallatin Pond	Gallatin	Central			X		

Body of Water	County	Fishing District	Manually Powered or Electric Motors Only	Closed to motorboats over 10 HP	Closed to all Motorboats	No-Wake Speed	Description & Exceptions
Elsina Lake	Missoula	Western	X				
Fitzpatrick Lake	Toole	Central			X		
Flathead Lake	Flathead	Western				X	Bigfork Bay to 100 yards west of Hwy 35 bridge; as buoyed
Flathead River - North Fork - Middle Fork - South Fork	 Flathead Flathead Flathead	 Western Western Western		 X X X	 X X X		From the Canadian border to Camas bridge, no motors are allowed. From the Camas bridge to the confluence of the Middle Fork motorboats may not exceed 10 hp. From Bear creek into the wilderness, no motors are allowed. From Bear Creek to the confluence of the South Fork motorboats may not exceed 10 hp. From Spotted Bear into the wilderness, no motors are allowed. From Spotted Bear to the Hungry Horse Reservoir, motorboats may not exceed 10 hp.
Forest Lake	Meagher	Central			X		
Frenchtown Pond	Missoula	Western			X		
Fresno Reservoir	Hill	Eastern				X	The area around the Fresno boat club docks, public boat ramp area, swimming and beach area as buoyed and signed
Ft. Peck Dredge Cut Trout Pond	Valley	Eastern				X	
Ft. Peck Reservoir	McCone	Eastern				X	Rock Creek Marina as buoyed

Body of Water	County	Fishing District	Manually Powered or Electric Motors Only	Closed to motorboats over 10 HP	Closed to all Motorboats	No-Wake Speed	Description & Exceptions
Gartside Reservoir	Richland	Eastern	X				
Harpers Lake	Missoula	Western			X		
Harrison Lake (Willow Creek Reservoir)	Madison	Central				X	All of Willow Creek Arm and Norwegian Arm as buoyed 6 p.m. through 11 a.m.
Hauser Reservoir	Lewis & Clark	Central				X	Lakeside marina and Black Sandy beach within 300 feet of the docks or as buoyed; Spokane Creek Bay within 500 feet from mouth of bay as buoyed and from Canyon Ferry Dam to Riverside boat ramp. Closed to all boats from Oct. 15 - Dec. 15, upper end of reservoir from Canyon Ferry Dam to below Brown's Gulch as marked.
Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir	Lewis & Clark	Central	X				Swimming and wading are prohibited. Windsurfers wearing a wet suit or dry suit are permitted in designated area.
Henry Reservoir	Toole	Eastern			X		
Hidden Lake	Missoula	Western	X				
Holland Lake	Missoula	Western				X	Holland Lake Lodge and the Bay Loop campground within 300 feet or as buoyed.

Body of Water	County	Fishing District	Manually Powered or Electric Motors Only	Closed to motorboats over 10 HP	Closed to all Motorboats	No-Wake Speed	Description & Exceptions
Holter Lake	Lewis & Clark	Central				X	Bureau of Land Management boat landing as buoyed; Juniper Bay; Log Gulch; Departure Point; Merriweather Camp; and Holter Lake Lodge docks.
Holter Lake (upper)	Lewis & Clark	Central				X	Gates of the Mountains marina within 300 feet of docks or as buoyed. Closed to water skiing on Saturdays & Sundays and legal holidays from the mouth of the canyon on upper Holter lake to gates of the Mountains near Mann Gulch, as marked.
Hyalite Reservoir	Gallatin	Central				X	
Inez Lake	Missoula	Western					Boats pulling water skiers will travel in a counterclockwise direction.
Johnson Reservoir	Dawson	Central	X				
Lake Dinah	Missoula	Western			X		
Lake Elmo	Yellowstone	Eastern	X				
Lake Helena	Lewis & Clark	Central				X	From April 1 to opening day of waterfowl season.
Lake Koocanusa	Lincoln	Western				X	Cripple Horse Bay within 300 feet of dock or as buoyed
Lavon Lake	Lincoln	Western				X	Thompson Chain of Lakes Area. To include the channel between Lavon and Crystal lakes.
Leon Lake	Lincoln	Western				X	Thompson Chain of Lakes Area.

Body of Water	County	Fishing District	Manually Powered or Electric Motors Only	Closed to motorboats over 10 HP	Closed to all Motorboats	No-Wake Speed	Description & Exceptions
Lily Pad Lake	Lincoln	Western				X	Thompson Chain of Lakes Area.
Little Loon Lake	Lincoln	Western				X	Thompson Chain of Lakes Area.
Little McGregor Lake	Flathead	Western				X	Thompson Chain of Lakes Area.
Little Rainbow Lake	Lincoln	Western				X	Thompson Chain of Lakes Area.
Lost Lake	Lincoln	Western				X	Thompson Chain of Lakes Area.
Middle Thompson	Lincoln	Western				X	Only the channel between Middle and Lower Thompson lakes.
Missouri River	Gallatin, Broadwater, Lewis & Clark, Cascade	Central			X		Closed to all motorboats from the Burlington Northern Railway Bridge No. 119.4 at Broadwater Bay in Great Falls to Black Eagle. Also, the part of the river extending from the Warden Bridge on 10th Avenue South in Great Falls to the floater take-out facility near Oddfellows Park at Broadwater Bay as posted. Personal watercraft prohibited on the headwaters of the Missouri River downstream to its confluence with Prewett Creek, except in Missouri River reservoirs, and including all tributaries but not their reservoirs.
Missouri River	Lewis & Clark	Central				X	No-wake speed from Hauser Dam downstream to Beaver Creek.
Morrell Lake	Missoula	Western			X		
Myron Lake	Lincoln	Western				X	Thompson Chain of Lakes Area.

Body of Water	County	Fishing District	Manually Powered or Electric Motors Only	Closed to motorboats over 10 HP	Closed to all Motorboats	No-Wake Speed	Description & Exceptions
Park Lake	Jefferson	Central			X		
Pelican Point	Cascade	Central			X		Fishing Access Ponds
Placid Creek	Missoula	Western				X	From its headwaters to the confluence with Placid Lake
Rainbow Lake	Lincoln	Western				X	
Rainy Lake	Missoula	Western	X				
Salmon	Missoula	Western				X	Lake Clearwater River from the Placid Lake Road Bridge to Salmon Lake; that portion known as Legendary Lodge Narrows near the South end of the lake; and the area south of Salmon Cove Point (Eagle's Nest) to the lake's outlet
Savage Lake	Lincoln	Western				X	During the hours of 5 a.m. through 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. through 11 p.m. each day
Seeley Lake	Missoula						Boats pulling water skiers will travel in a counterclockwise direction.
Smith River	Cascade & Meagher	Central			X		
South Sandstone Reservoir	Fallon	Eastern				X	

Body of Water	County	Fishing District	Manually Powered or Electric Motors Only	Closed to motorboats over 10 HP	Closed to all Motorboats	No-Wake Speed	Description & Exceptions
Spook Lake	Missoula	Western	X				
Spring Meadow Lake	Lewis & Clark	Central			X		
Summit Lake	Missoula	Western	X				
Swan River	Lake	Western				X	From the mouth of Swan Lake upstream to Porcupine Bridge, approsimately 4.5 miles.
Thompson Lakes	Lincoln	Western					Refer to Middle or Upper Thompson lakes for restrictions.
Tongue River Reservoir	Big Horn	Eastern				X	As buoyed in the marina area at Campers Point
Topless Lake	Lincoln	Western				X	Thompson Chain of Lakes Area
Upper Thompson	Lincoln	Western				X	Middle and lower lobes. Thompson Chain of Lakes Area.
Upsata Lake	Missoula	Western				X	
Whitefish River	Flathead	Western				X	From its confluence with Whitefish Lake to the bridge on the JP Road
Whitetail Reservoir	Daniels	Eastern				X	
Wood Lake	Lewis & Clark	Central			X		

BOAT AND MOTOR RESTRICTIONS

The following dams are closed to all boating, sailing, floating and swimming or closed to all public access as marked by boat restraining systems or signs.

Name of Dam	Restriction
Black Eagle Dam	500' above dam to 100' below the waterfalls. Closed to all public access below ordinary high-water mark from the dam to 100' below the waterfalls.
Canyon Ferry Dam	Closed to all watercraft as posted or marked by boat restraining systems, the area immediately above and below the dam.
Cochrane Dam	500' above the dam to 500' below the dam.
Flint Creek Dam	100' above the dam to 150' below the dam.
Hauser Dam	250' above the dam to 600' below the dam. Closed to all public access below ordinary high-water mark from the dam to 100' below the dam from December 1 to April 1.
Hebgen Dam	100' above the dam to 100' below the outlet works.
Holter Dam	150' above the dam to 900' below the dam.
Kerr Dam	560' above the dam to 250' below the powerhouse. Closed to all public access and usage on the Flathead river and shoreline from 560' above the dam to 250' below the powerhouse.
Madison Dam	600' above the dam to 700' below the dam.
Milltown Dam	200' above the dam to 200' below the dam.
Morony Dam	500' above the dam to 500' below the dam.
Mystic Dam	100' above the dam to the dam. Closed to all public access below ordinary high water mark from the south side of west Rosebud Creek from the powerhouse to the USGS concrete weir.
Rainbow Dam	600' above the dam to 4,400' below the dam. Closed to all public access below ordinary high-water mark from the dam to 4,400' below the dam to the east end of the tailrace island adjacent to the Rainbow dam powerhouse.
Ryan Dam	500' above the dam to 100' below the waterfalls. Closed to all public access below the ordinary high-water mark from the dam to the east end of Ryan Island.
Thompson Falls Dam	1,020' above the main channel dam to 500' below the powerhouse.
Toston Dam	Closed to all boating, sailing, floating and swimming, the Missouri river between the dam and 300' downstream and the reservoir between the dam and the boat restraining system.
W. Rosebud Dam	100' above the dam to the dam.

YOUR LICENSE DOLLARS AT WORK

Highlights of 1998-1999 Fisheries Program

* Providing diverse angling opportunities is important to Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). With that in mind, Montana continues to rely almost exclusively on wild, naturally reproducing trout to replenish its rivers and streams. In lakes and reservoirs where natural reproduction is not adequate, management objectives are accomplished with hatchery-reared fish.

* FWP also continues to emphasize the preservation of native fish and habitat protection with special efforts aimed at habitat that has been damaged.

* Among our many accomplishments during 1998-1999 were the following:

Fisheries Management

* FWP completed a new management plan for the upper Missouri River Reservoir system. The plan will guide fisheries management in Canyon Ferry, Hauser and Holter reservoirs for the next 10 years

* FWP fisheries personnel inventoried fish populations in over 450 waters in 1998-1999 to monitor health of our aquatic ecosystems and evaluate various management activities such as fish stocking, special angling regulations, and habitat improvement projects.

Research

* Montana continues to be recognized as the leader in dealing with the whirling disease problem. The Whirling Disease Task Force provides an ongoing focus on this issue. Whirling disease poses very real threats - to native species, to wild nonnative trout, and to recreational fishing.

  All water recreationists are reminded that we still do not know enough about how whirling disease spreads to rule out many possible vectors. Although we believe that the movement of fish and fish parts is the major source of spreading the disease, it is still possible that fish-eating birds and animals, as well as anglers and other water recreationists can also move the parasite. Consequently, precautions still make sense. This continues to be an area where more research is needed.

Habitat Protection/Improvement

* The Future Fisheries Improvement Program (FFIP) began in July of 1995 and provides funding for projects that restore and enhance habitats for wild fish populations in streams, rivers, and lakes. During the first six funding cycles over $3.8 million program dollars have been committed to 192 projects located throughout Montana; these projects generated over $5.4 million in matching contributions.

YOUR LICENSE DOLLARS AT WORK

* Montana's two stream protection laws, the Stream Protection Act (administered by FWP) and the Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act (administered by county Conservation Districts), regulate activities that affect the bed or banks of Montana streams. FWP biologists or our representatives inspect nearly 2000 projects annually and recommend or require permit conditions that protect fish habitat.

* FWP has completed 12 water leases on 10 streams in the Blackfoot, Bitterroot, Clark Fork, Jefferson and Yellowstone river basins under a program to improve flows in dewatered streams. Voluntary agreements were made with irrigators who own early water rights, portions of which were transferred from irrigation use to instream use to improve and expand available fish habitat.

Species of Special Concern

* The fluvial Arctic grayling recovery program made significant progress again in 1999. Grayling were stocked in the North and South Forks of the Sun River, the upper Ruby River and the Beaverhead River near Twin Bridges. This is part of our effort to establish self-sustaining fluvial grayling populations in each of these rivers.

* The Westslope Cutthroat Trout Steering Committee completed a conservation agreement for the restoration of this sub-species. The Steering Committee membership included Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Montana Farm Bureau, Montana Trout Unlimited, American Wildlands, Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Montana Stockgrowers Association and representatives of the timber and ranching industries. Completion and signing of the agreement culminated over two years of work. The basic goal of the Conservation Agreement is to protect existing populations and ensure the long-term persistence of westslope cutthroat within their historic range in Montana.

Fish Stocking

* All the construction at MFWP's Hatcheries was accomplished using both state and federal (Sport Fish Restoration - WB) funds. In all for 1998, 1999 and into 2000 there will be over $10,000,000 dollars spent at seven of the state's nine hatcheries to preserve the integrity and to assure quality fish are produced for Montana anglers into the future.

* Both Big Springs and Giant Springs Hatchery construction projects to enhance water quality and protect our hatcheries from whirling disease were completed in 1999 - in 2000 Bluewater Hatchery will go into construction and will be completed in early 2001. Miles City Hatchery was expanded and will see the benefits in 2001 warmwater fish production.

YOUR LICENSE DOLLARS AT WORK

Increased Access Opportunities

* There are currently a total of 312 fishing access sites statewide. Two additional sites have recently been added. A new brochure is available that identifies the location of each FAS and the facilities available at the site. These brochures are available at the Regional FWP offices.

* Last year FWP controlled weeds on over 2,745 acres at a cost in excess of $121,000. The work was accomplished in cooperation with private contractors, county weed districts, and FWP maintenance crews. FWP has made it a priority to stop the spread of weeds. You can help by driving only on designated roads and parking areas, and by giving us a call if you find a weed infested area so that we can take steps to control them.

* Vandalism is a serious problem. Last year FWP spent in excess of $30,000 to repair damage to FAS's as a direct result of vandalism. Please call 1-800-TIP-MONT (1-800-847-6668) if you observe vandalism taking place.

Enforcement

* Montana wardens contacted over 50,000 anglers in 1999 to improve compliance with regulations and protect Montana's fisheries resources. Close to 1,500 citations were issued in addition to approximately 1,350 verbal warnings to anglers/recreationists.

* Saturation patrols aimed at illegal harvest of paddlefish were again successful during the spring of 1999. These efforts are integral to the long-term success of FWP's Paddlefish Plan.

RIVER ETIQUETTE

Be aware that boat access areas can be busy places; you may wish to fish in a location that is less congested.

Do not encroach on another angler's space. Use the "visual rule of crowding" and attempt to keep out of sight of other anglers, if at all possible.

Try not to monopolize a good fishing spot on the river. Fish for a while, then move on.

Understand that there are going to be instances when the wading angler should yield to floaters, because there is no other channel for the floaters to navigate.

When possible, avoid using the streambed as a pathway. This type of foot traffic can cause damage to the fragile aquatic habitat. Anglers should use the shoreline to travel from one point to the other, if doing so doesn't violate trespass laws.

ANGLER EDUCATION

During 1999, over 12,000 new and beginning anglers took part in fishing clinics and courses offered by FWP in cooperation with groups such as Walleyes Unlimited and Trout Unlimited. In addition, over 600 teachers were trained in aquatic and fisheries education, and it is estimated that they will reach more than 15,000 students annually.

The M*A*Y (Montana Angling Youth) Club currently has over 4,000 members who receive a newsletter and supplies four times each year in the mail. There is no cost and there are no meetings to attend. Children aged 12 and under can join the M*A*Y Club by sending their name and address to M*A*Y Club, 490 N Meridian Road, Kalispell MT, 59901.

HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF WHIRLING DISEASE

- Remove all mud and aquatic plants from your vehicle, boat, anchor, trailer and axles, waders, boots, and fishing gear before departing a fishing access site or boat dock;
- Drain all water from your boat and equipment–including coolers, buckets, and live wells– before departing a fishing access site or boat dock;
- Dry your boat and equipment between river trips.
- **Do Not** transport fish from one body of water to another;
- **Do Not** dispose of fish entrails, skeletal parts, or other by-products in any body of water;
- **Do Not** collect or use sculpins for bait;
- **Do Not** use parts of trout, salmon, or whitefish for bait.

KNOW YOUR NOXIOUS WEEDS

Be a good land steward:
- learn to identify noxious weed species
- prevent their spread
- support noxious weed management efforts

Dalmatian Toadflax

Leafy Spurge

Spotted Knapweed

MONTANA STREAM ACCESS LAW

Under the Montana Stream Access Law, the public may use rivers and streams for recreational purposes up to the ordinary high-water marks. Although Montana law gives recreationists the right to use these rivers and streams for water-related recreation, it does not allow them to enter posted lands bordering those streams or to cross private lands to gain access to streams.

Recreationists are urged to refer to the complete rules which can be obtained from any Fish, Wildlife & Parks office.

MONTANA TRESPASS LAW

Montana's trespass law states that a member of the public has the privilege to enter private land only:

- with the explicit permission of the landowner or his agent, or
- when the landowner has failed to post a no-trespassing notice.

The recreationist must obtain permission from the landowner before entering posted lands. Montana hunters must always obtain permission to access private land. Recreationists are urged to obtain complete rules about this law from any Fish, Wildlife & Parks office.

MONTANA POWER COMPANY DAMS

Use Restrictions at Montana Power Company Dams

In the interest of public health and safety, certain areas above and below all Montana Power Company (MPC) owned and operated dams are closed to the public. These restrictions include areas where no public access is allowed below the ordinary high-water mark and areas of no boating, sailing, floating and swimming. The restricted areas are identified and delineated by signs and/or boat restraining systems. For specific closures, see the current Montana Boating Laws or call MPC's Hydro hotline at 1-800-247-9131 (Montana only).

FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORY

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services has issued advisories for the consumption of fish from certain Montana waters. Fish from some Montana waters contain levels of chemicals which may be harmful to young children, nursing mothers, and child-bearing women or persons frequently consuming fish.

Information, advice and additional details about fish consumption are available from the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Food and Consumer Safety Section, Helena, Montana, 59620; telephone (406) 444-3986

TAGGED FISH

If you catch a tagged fish, please report the following information to any Fish, Wildlife & Parks office:

1. the tag's number and color;
2. the date the fish was caught;
3. the species of the fish;
4. the fish's length and weight (close as possible);
5. location of the catch (the body of water and distance from nearest landmark);
6. if the fish was kept or released; and
7. the name and address of the angler.

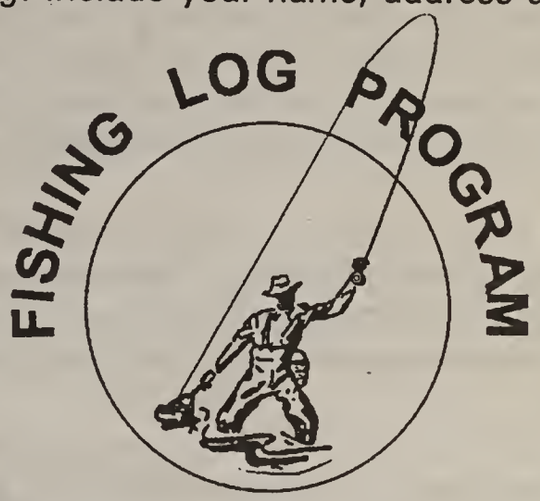
RELEASING FISH

To ensure a released fish has the best chance for survival:

- Play the fish as rapidly as possible. Do not play it to total exhaustion.
- Keep the fish in water as much as possible when handling and removing the hook.
- Remove the hook gently. Do not squeeze the fish or put your fingers in its gills.
- If the fish is deeply hooked, cut the line. Do not yank the hook out. Most fish survive with hooks left in them.
- Release the fish only after it has gained its equilibrium. If necessary, gently hold the fish upright in the current facing upstream and move it slowly back and forth.
- Release the fish in quiet water close to the area where it was hooked.

FISHING LOG PROGRAM

If you fish regularly in Montana, help us gather fishing information by keeping a fishing log. Write or call for a Fishing Log. Include your name, address and phone number with all written requests.



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
MSU Campus
PO Box 173230
Bozeman, MT 59717-3230
(406) 994-6838

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

1-900 Hotline - 1-900-225-5397

Our information hotline offers comprehensive details to callers on a wide variety of recreation topics. The line is operational Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm MST. A $1.50 per minute charge is assessed and callers must be at least 18 years old.

On-Line Computer Bulletin Board

Our free computer on-line information center can be accessed via computer modem through the State of Montana's Bulletin Board System. By calling 1-800-962-1729 in Montana or 1-406-444-5648 from out-of-state, customers can access the latest FWP news and leave messages with our System Operator.

Fax and Customer Service

Customers can send a fax to FWP at 406-444-4952 or call 406-444-2535 for general information. Those seeking nonresident hunting license information should call 406-444-2950.

Internet—http:\\fwp.state.mt.us

Internet surfers can catch a wave of information from FWP's award winning World Wide Web site. Eight areas are covered—Fishing, Hunting, Wildlife, Parks, News, Education, Kid's Page, and Resources. Within these areas are FWP hunting and fishing regulations, FWP Talk, parks information and comment areas. The site provides links to various agencies, organizations, and news and weather services.

SPORT FISH RESTORATION ACT

THANK YOU, ANGLERS AND MOTORBOATERS!

Every time you purchase a fishing rod, reel, tackle box, lure, fishing line, an electronic fish finder, or boat gasoline, you are financially assisting many fisheries programs and motorboat access in Montana. This support is in addition to what FWP receives when you purchase a fishing license.

In 1950, the U.S. Congress passed a bill creating the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program. The legislation, supported by conservationists, anglers, tackle manufacturers, and many others throughout the nation, was modeled after the highly successful Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1939.

The Sport Fish Restoration Act created a 10 percent federal excise tax on certain fishing equipment, with proceeds to be used at the state level to improve sport fisheries. The main Congressional sponsors of the bill were Senator Dingell from Michigan and Representative Johnson from Colorado. Hence, the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program came to be known as the "Dingell-Johnson" or, the "D-J" Act.

In 1984, Congress passed significant amendments to the bill, adding motorboat fuel, fish finders and other products to the list of taxed goods. Many of these products sport the Federal Aid logo. The 1984 amendments more than tripled the funding for state sport fisheries programs. Because the sponsors of that legislation were Senator Wallop from Wyoming and then-Representative Breaux from Louisiana, this Federal Aid program has recently been referred to as "Wallop-Breaux" or "W-B."In 1992 and again in 1998, Congress further amended the W-B program. The amendments added more money and provided for more motorboating projects.

The excise tax is included in the price of the fishing products you buy. The tax is paid by the manufacturer, and the cost is ultimately passed along to the consumer. The "user pay" concept is very important: as a condition of receiving the Federal Aid funds, states cannot use their state license dollars for any purpose other than sport fisheries management. The penalty for "diverting" license dollars to other uses is severe -- any state doing so would lose its Federal Aid funds! This is one reason why state legislatures have not used license dollars to fund other government functions.

Each year, the excise tax is collected by the U.S. Treasury, then turned over to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They return it to the states on the basis of a formula. Forty percent of the funds received are based on the land and water area of the state. Sixty percent of the funds received are based on the number of people who have purchased one or more fishing licenses. So, people who buy a fishing license contribute much more than the actual amount of license dollars they pay. FWP receives about $5 in Federal Aid funds per paid fishing license holder, which currently amounts to about $5 million a year. Since 1952, Montana has received more than $73 million in Sport Fish Restoration funds.

SPORT FISH RESTORATION ACT

With revenue received from license sales and the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program, FWP funds a number of important programs and projects. Most of FWP's field biologists performing fisheries management work are funded with Sport Fish Restoration funds. Most of Montana's fish hatchery personnel, along with many of the major hatchery renovation projects, are also funded with Federal Aid. Other important projects include aquatic education, research, habitat protection, and angler surveys.

In addition, over 140 Fishing Access Sites throughout Montana have been maintained, improved, or originally purchased with Federal Aid. You may have noticed the Federal Aid logo on signs at these sites throughout the state.

Motorboaters also benefit from their "user-paid" Federal Aid dollars. The Act now mandates that 15 percent of the funds be used to develop and maintain motorboat use facilities. So far, 14 of Montana's water-based State Parks and many of the fishing access sites have been improved or maintained with Federal Aid motorboat access funds.

So, remember, each time you purchase that rod, reel, or other piece of fishing equipment, or put gas in your boat, you are contributing toward the conservation of sport fisheries in Montana.

Your purchase
of fishing equipment
and motor boat fuels supports
Sport Fish Restoration and
boating access facilities.

DEFINITIONS

ANGLING/FISHING

Angling or fishing means to capture or attempt to capture fish or the act of a person possessing any instrument, article, or substance for the purpose of taking fish in any location that a fish might inhabit.

ARTIFICIAL LURE

Artificial lures include any lure (including flies) that imitates natural bait. Artificial lures do not include, however, fish eggs, any natural or artificial food, nor any chemically treated or processed natural bait.

ATTENDED LINE

A fishing line, which is hand-held or where the angler has immediate control.

CALENDAR DAY

A 24-hour period from midnight to midnight.

DAILY LIMIT

The number of fish that may be legally taken during a calendar day. A fish when landed and not immediately released becomes part of the bag limit of the person originally hooking the fish even if the fish is donated to another person. If you receive fish from another angler, those fish also become part of your daily limit.

DRAINAGE

All of the waters comprising a watershed, including tributary rivers, streams, sloughs, ponds and lakes, which contribute to the water supply of the watershed.

DRESSED FISH

A fish which has been cleaned by removing the entrails. Dressed fish may also be filleted and/or have their head, gills and scales removed.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Species in imminent danger of extinction throughout their range.

FISHING ACCESS SITE (FAS)

An area adjacent to a stream or lake which has been acquired by FWP to allow anglers access to a water body. Fishing access sites are funded in part by fishing license fees.

HOOK

A hook is a single, double, or treble point attached to a single shank. A lure with multiple hooks is still considered a single hook.

HOOP NET

A net trap designed to capture fish moving within a body of water. Hoop nets are permitted for use in certain locations in the Eastern Fishing District. A permit is required for fishing with a hoop net.

DEFINITIONS

LANDING NET

A net attached to a frame and handle, which is used to capture fish which have been hooked by an angler.

LEGALLY TAKEN

Any fish caught using legal methods and not immediately released.

LEGAL RESIDENT

To be a legal resident eligible to purchase hunting, fishing or trapping licenses, you must have physically been living in Montana for at least 180 consecutive days (six months) immediately before purchasing any resident license; you must file Montana state income tax returns as a resident, if you are required to file; you must have registered your vehicles in Montana; if you are registered to vote, you must be registered in Montana; and you may not possess or apply for any resident hunting, fishing or trapping privileges in another state or country. You must show a valid Montana Driver's License or a valid Montana Identification Card when purchasing a license. If unsure of your residency status, contact a regional FWP office.

LENGTH

Fish length is measured from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail fin.

MAINSTEM

In a particular drainage, the mainstem is the primary stream or river into which most tributaries flow.

NONGAME FISH

Any wild fish not otherwise legally classified by statute or regulation of this state.

PERMANENT RESIDENCE

The physical abode or structure you maintain as your principal, legal residence.

POSSESSION LIMIT

The number of fish that may be possessed at any time in any form: fresh, stored in freezers or lockers, salted, smoked, dried, canned, or preserved.

RESERVOIR

An artificially impounded body of water behind a man-made dam extending upstream to the mouth of its inlet stream(s).

SALMONID

Any species of trout, char, salmon, grayling, cisco, or whitefish. All salmonid fish have an adipose fin (small, fleshy fin on the back near the tail).

DEFINITIONS

SEINE

A net, usually suspended between two poles, which is pulled through the water to capture fish for bait. Seines used for this purpose must not exceed 12 feet in length and four feet in width.

SNAGGING

A technique of angling in which a hook or hooks are cast, trolled or lowered into the water and manipulated to embed the hook or hooks into the body of the fish. You have snagged a fish if: (a) you are fishing in a manner that the fish does not voluntarily take the hook in its mouth, or (b) if you accidentally hook the fish in a part of the body other than the mouth.

SPEAR

Any sharp-pointed instrument, with or without barbs, used to capture and/or kill fish by penetrating the body. Usually a spear consists of a shaft with a sharp head or point. Spears are hand-propelled or propelled with a spring, rubber band, or compressed gas.

SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN

Native Montana species with limited habitats and/or limited numbers in the state. Such species are at risk of becoming threatened.

STREAM MOUTH

The downstream point defined as a straight line running from the most downstream extremity on one stream bank to the most downstream extremity on the other stream bank or a point defined and marked by FWP.

THREATENED SPECIES

Species that are likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.

TRIBUTARY

Any watercourse which flows into a body of water, including tributaries to a tributary.

UNATTENDED LINE (Setline)

Any line extended into the water and supporting one or more hooks where the angler is not in immediate control of the line. Setlines may be used on those waters specified by district regulations. All setlines must be clearly identified with the owner's complete name and address.

WASTE OF FISH OR GAME

To purposely waste any part of a game fish suitable for food by transporting, hanging, or storing the carcass or flesh in a manner that renders it unfit for human consumption; or to abandon or dispose in the field or water the carcass or flesh of any game fish suitable for food; or to use the carcass or flesh of any game fish as bait.

Help Protect Native Species
Know Montana's Native Fish

The pallid sturgeon is a fish of special concern in Montana and it is listed as an Endangered Species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Pallids are a bottom-dwelling fish of the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers, preferring strong currents flowing over a sandy or gravely river bottom.

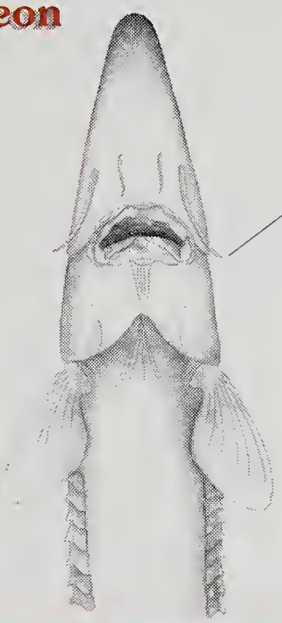
Montana law requires:

—All pallid sturgeon must be released immediately.
—All sturgeon longer than 40 inches must be released immediately.

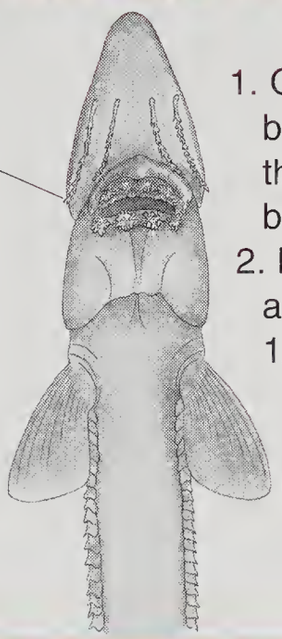
Learn to distinguish the pallid from the shovelnose sturgeon, a smaller and more common species (see diagrams below). Since the sturgeon are hard to identify, we recommend that all sturgeon be released if you are unsure of the species.

Pallid Sturgeon

1. Outer barbel 2 more times the length of inner barbel. (Be ale for broken barbels)
2. Barbels attached close to mouth, about 1/3 the distance between mouth and tip of snout.



Shovelnose Sturgeon

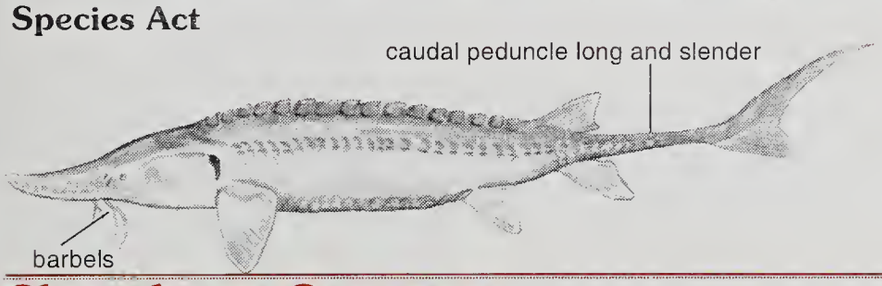


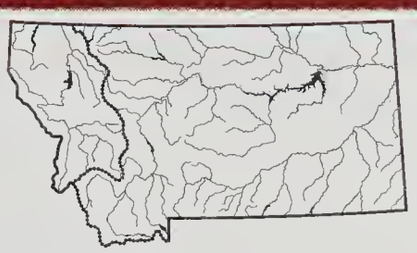
1. Outer barbel barely longer than inner barbel.
2. Barbels attached about 1/2 the distance between the mouth and tip of snout.

Native Sport Fish

Pallid Sturgeon—Species of Special Concern

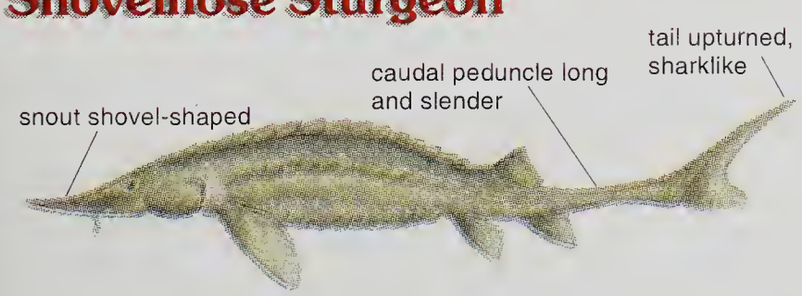
An Endangered Species listed under the Endangered Species Act



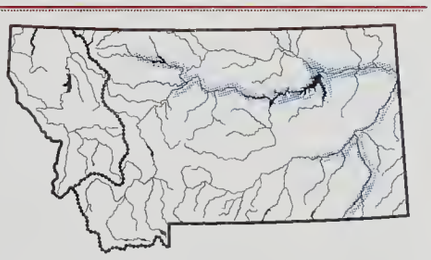


Average Size: 60"
MT Record: 60 lbs.
Yellowstone River, 1979

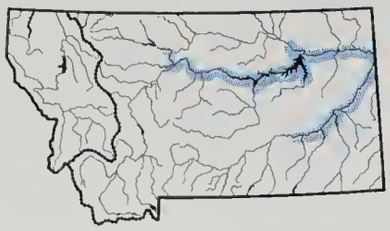
Shovelnose Sturgeon



This fish is easily confused with the Pallid Sturgeon

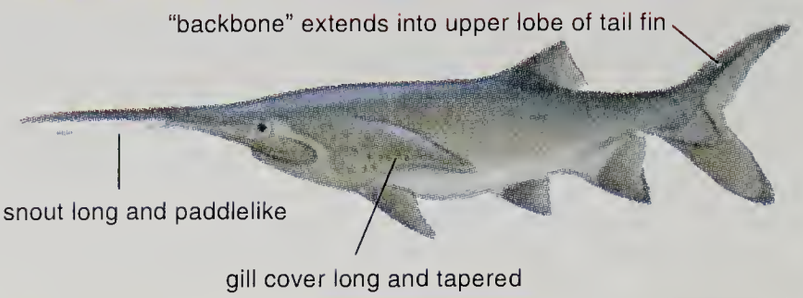


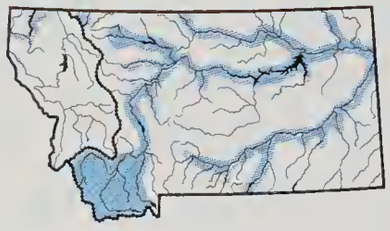
Average Size: 20" - 32"
MT Record: 13lb 12oz, 39.5"
Missouri River, 1986



Average Size: 55" - 65"
MT Record: 142lb 8oz, 77"
Missouri River, 1973

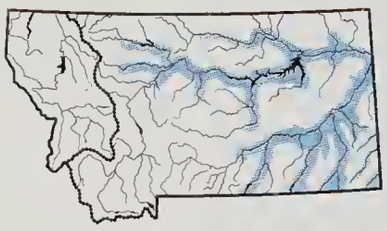
Paddlefish—Species of Special Concern





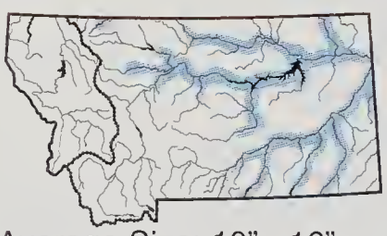
Average Size: 16" - 24"
MT Record: 17lb 1oz, 39"
Missouri River, 1989

Burbot



Average Size: 14" - 20"
MT Record: 27lb 3oz, 34.2"
Castlerock Lake, 1998

Channel Catfish

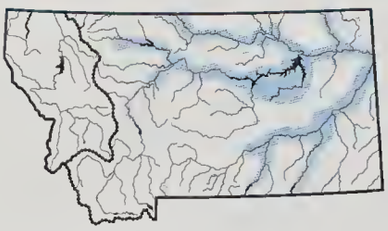


Average Size: 10" - 16"
MT Record: 8lb 13oz, 28.2"
Fort Peck Reservoir, 1994

Sauger

SAUGER NEED YOUR HELP. KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SAUGER & WALLEYE

Non-Native Sport Fish

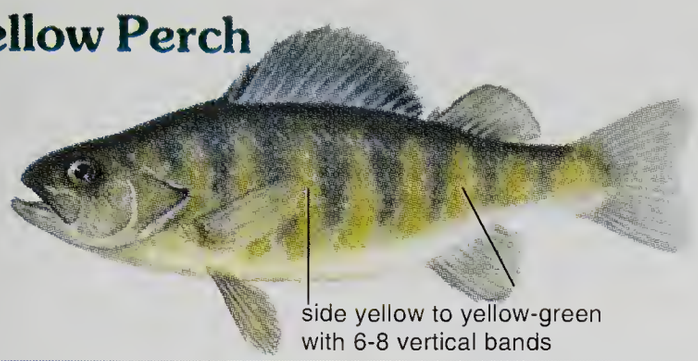


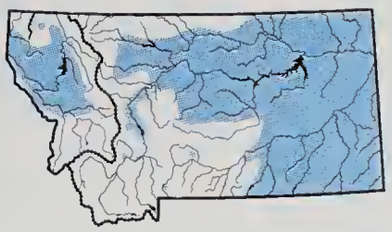
Average Size: 14" - 18"
MT Record: 16lb 6oz, 31.5"
Cooney Reservoir, 1996

Walleye

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SAUGER & WALLEYE

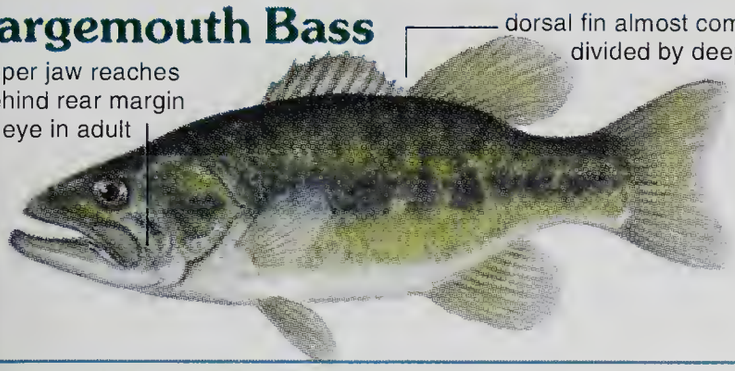
Yellow Perch

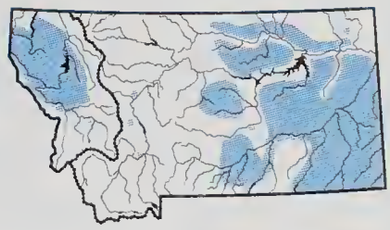




Average Size: 6" - 10"
MT Record: 2lb 6oz, 14.5"
Ashley Lake, 1988

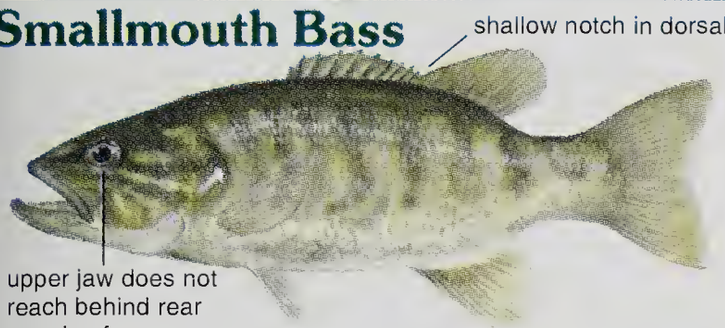
Largemouth Bass

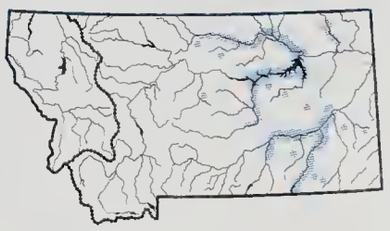




Average Size: 10" - 16"
MT Record: 8lb 5oz, 22"
Many Lakes, 1999

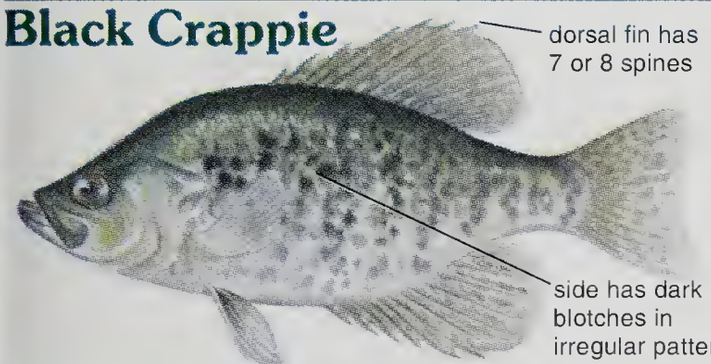
Smallmouth Bass

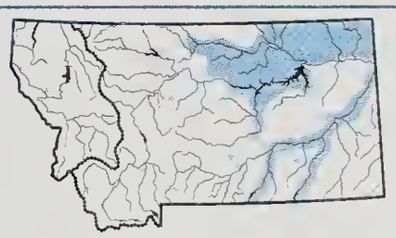




Average Size: 8" - 14"
MT Record: 6lb 5oz, 20.3"
Flathead River, 1999

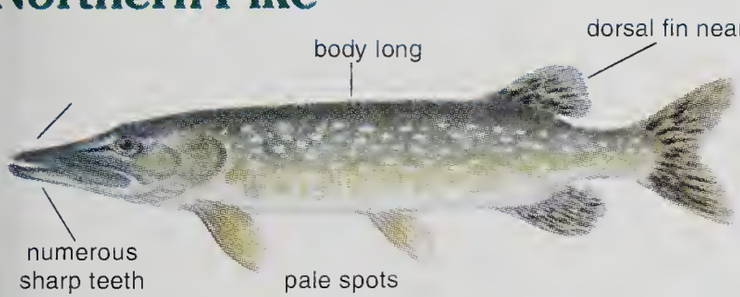
Black Crappie

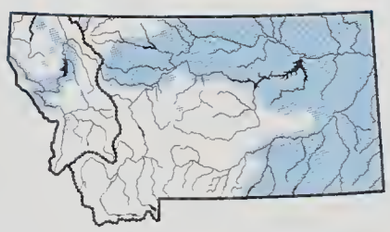




Average Size: 6" - 12"
MT Record: 3lb 2oz, 16.7"
Tongue River Reservoir, 1973

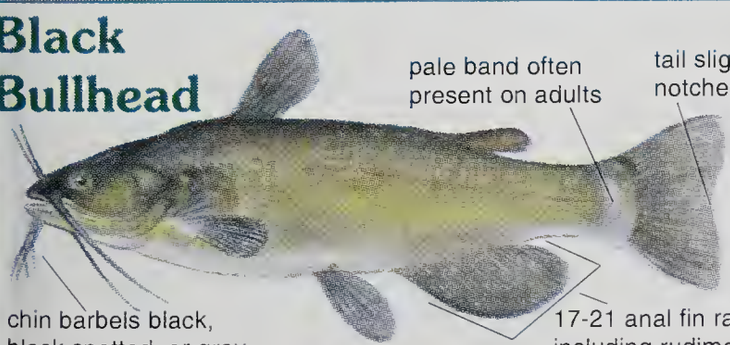
Northern Pike

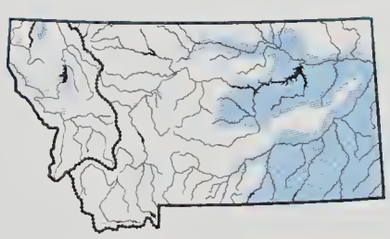




Average Size: 18" - 26"
MT Record: 37lb 8 oz"
Tongue River Reservior, 1972

Black Bullhead





Average Size: 6" - 12"
MT Record: 2lb 5oz, 15.5"
Lower Flathead River, 1994

"Sun River Challenge"

In 2001, FWP celebrates 100 years as a state agency. "Sun River Challenge," a commemorative oil painting by renowned Western artist Larry Zable, depicts Montana's effort to preserve fish and wildlife habitat that began in 1947 with the creation of the Sun River Game Range. Today, in the Sun River along the Rocky Mountain Front, Montanans continue that work by restoring the Arctic grayling, a Montana Native Fish.

Illegal Introductions Cause Serious Harm

Introduced fish or aquatic invertebrates (insects or crayfish) pose a threat to our valuable, natural fish and aquatic resources because they:

- Compete with native or other desired species for food and space.
- Interbreed with established species or disrupt spawning.
- Carry and spread new diseases and parasites.

Penalties

- Fines of $500 up to $5000 and imprisonment for up to one year.
- Liability for all costs to eliminate or mitigate the effects of the violation.
- Loss of hunting, fishing and trapping privileges for at least 24 months or possibly life.

What can you do?

Don't move live fish or aquatic invertebrates from one body of water to another.
Don't release any live aquarium fish or bait fish into the outdoors.

Do report to FWP any movement of aquatic life you see or hear about as soon as possible.
Do wash all mud and aquatic plants from your vehicles, boats and fishing gear.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1420 East Sixth Avenue
Helena MT 59620
406-444-2535
http:\\fwp.state.mt.us

TURN IN POACHERS — 1-800-TIP-MONT — 1-800-847-6668